



# **THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA**



## **E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 70

MARCH 2025

### **A VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO FROM MALTA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES**



Photo courtesy of Rita Borg. See pages 15-22, 24.

## The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 70

March 2025

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States of America

### EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's heartwarming to see the number of activities taking place within the various Maltese clubs in Canada and the United States, within the only Maltese parish outside Malta, and through the Maltese Embassy in the United States.

In the Greater Toronto Area, the Malta Band Club has had its annual general meeting and the election of its executive committee for 2025. (See page 4.)

A spring concert is scheduled for Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and a fenkata night will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Melita Soccer Club led a carnival dinner party on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (see pages 13-14) and will hold a St. Patrick's dinner dance on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and a fenkata dinner on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton has organized a Way of the Cross art exhibit at three different parishes during Lent. (See page 6.)

The Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario has a couple of dinners planned for March and its AGM on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Across the Detroit River in Metro Detroit, a first Friday in Lent Mass was celebrated and a dinner held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Maltese American Community Club.

St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated at the Maltese American Benevolent Society on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Malta's Ambassador to the United States and other dignitaries were welcomed at the Maltese-American Social Club in San Francisco on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (see pages 1, 15-22, 24). A St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance will take place on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, with a rummage sale on April 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and a family bingo and pasta dinner on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

At the Maltese Center in New York City, Mass was celebrated by Fr. Anthony Saliba on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by a reception for Malta's Speaker of the House (see pages 9-10). Bingo was played in the lower hall on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Back in Toronto, at St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Chalice sponsorship was conducted during the weekend of February 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (see page 6) a Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage breakfast took place on March 4<sup>th</sup> and a Lenten Mission is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Embassy of Malta to the United States hosted members of the Women's Diplomatic Series in Washington, DC (see pages 7-8) and on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> a meeting with the honorary consuls in the United States took place in San Francisco.

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](mailto:danbrock62@gmail.com).

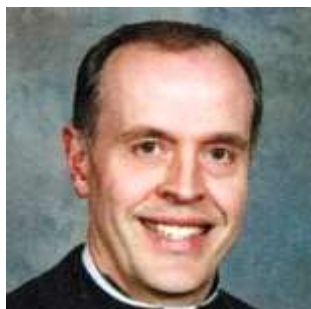
The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

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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 February 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

It is once again my pleasure to wish you all a very blessed feast day. After having visited Malta and Gozo this past October, I have gained a deeper understanding of your rich history, vibrant religious celebrations, and the importance of commemorating them with joy and dignity.

My time in Malta allowed me to truly appreciate the strong religious faith that underpins the feast of St. Paul's shipwreck. It is a wonderful tradition that each year we read the account from the Acts of the Apostles, recounting how, through divine providence, St. Paul found himself in Malta and was able to spread the Catholic faith.

In a world that often cannot appreciate the significance of the past, it is crucial for us as Christians to move forward while also looking back, as this allows us to gain clarity and a sense of purpose in our journey. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to deepen their faith and live out the teachings of the gospel.

This Jubilee year presents a beautiful opportunity for us to delve even further into our faith and recommit ourselves to Christ and the teachings of the Church.

I am truly grateful for the warm welcome and the willingness of the people of this parish to collaborate with me. As we navigate the uncertain future, we must continue to live our faith courageously and humbly, knowing that only God knows what lies ahead. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to Christ and embrace the opportunities for growth and spiritual transformation that come our way.

May this feast day be a time of reflection, renewal, and celebration. May it strengthen our faith and inspire us to live as true disciples of Christ.

### Parish Bulletin for February 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parishioners, Foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your active participation in the life of our parish. Your generosity, in terms of both time and financial support, does not go unnoticed. We are making excellent progress with our fundraising efforts for the new heating system, and I am grateful to everyone who has contributed.

I want to thank everyone who joined us for our recent dinner and dance, despite the possibility of bad weather. The evening was full of joy and enjoyment for everyone involved. It was a delightful way to honor St. Paul, the patron saint of our community. Commemorating feast days allows us to reflect on St. Paul's accomplishments and consider our own paths. We raised \$7,000.00 from the dinner and dance. We sincerely appreciate the support and generosity shown by all who attended. Once again, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. We will combine the funds from the event with our previous fundraising for the new heating system. This will give us an impressive total amount of \$26,282.00 collected so far. We sincerely thank all who attended the dinner and dance for their support and generosity. Once again, we express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. We truly appreciate your support.

I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the incredible social committee of our parish. Their unwavering dedication, tireless efforts, and exceptional commitment have played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of togetherness and unity within our community. Through their hard work and meticulous planning, they have successfully organized a multitude of events that have not only brought us closer together but also created lasting memories for everyone involved. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the social committee for their invaluable contributions and for making our parish a truly special place to belong.

Please mark your calendars for March 5<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of Lent. Like last year, we will have our pancake breakfast on March 4<sup>th</sup> following the 9:15 am Mass. Let's come together to make it our most successful event yet. As many of you know, I am planning a pilgrimage to France and Rome in October. This pilgrimage is open to anyone who might be interested, so please spread the word to your relatives, friends, and anyone who may come to St. Paul's Parish and is interested in joining us.

## ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2025

### Malta Band Club



The annual general meeting and election of the 2025 executive committee was held at The Malta Band Club on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Club has been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated member base over the past 54 years. It has had steady growth since it was established in 1971 and that growth is directly linked to the constant support from members and friends towards the Club.

We would like to introduce the people that have accepted the responsibility of leading the Malta Band Club as part of the 2025 MBC Executive Committee. In addition to the executive committee, the Club requires many volunteers to assist with the daily tasks at the Club. Please reach out to any member of the executive committee if you would like to volunteer some time to help out at the Club. The support is always welcome and appreciated!

### **Malta Band Club Incorporated**

### **2025 Executive Committee**

***President: Anthony Vella***

***Vice-President: John Azzopardi***

***Secretary: Jacqueline Sant***

***Membership Secretary: Carmen Grech***

***Treasurer: Virginia Church***

***Youth Director: Fred Portelli***

***Director: Charlie Desira***

***Director: John Frendo***

***Director: Leli Mercieca***

***Thank you for accepting the responsibility of leading the Malta Band Club throughout 2025!***

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MALTESE-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

Mary Vella Gomes, President  
[President@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org](mailto:President@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)  
 Terrie Aquino, Vice-President

Maryann Milla, Secretary  
[Secretary@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org](mailto:Secretary@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)  
 Mary Borg Smith, Assistant Secretary

Rita Borg, Treasurer  
 Ninfa Pace, Assistant Treasurer

Mary Anne Fassler, Parliamentarian  
 Lori Scribner, Sargeant-At-Arms  
 Louis J. Vella, Auditor  
 Mona Nicholas, Auditor



## THE PASSING OF THERESA FARRUGIA

### Dan Brock



The death of Theresa "Tessie" (Tanti) Farrugia occurred at St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto, on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Tessie Tanti was born in Rabat, Malta, on November 18, 1941, the eldest sister of her seven siblings: Tony, Paul, Joe, Frank, Mary, Charlie and Lucy.

In 1957, she immigrated to Toronto. She was married to Philip Farrugia and had three sons: Raymond, Joseph, and Robert. She is also survived by six grandchildren.

Among her pleasures were time with family which included baking for her grandchildren. Tessie also enjoyed attending weekly bingo, reading, and completing word puzzles.

The Mass of Catholic Burial was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto, on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Interment took place at Assumption Catholic Cemetery, Mississauga.

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

### CALIFORNIA

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

Maltese Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb and other dignitaries were welcomed at the Club on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (see pages 1, 15-22, 24).

A **St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance** will be held on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

A **Rummage Sale** will take place on Saturday-Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a **Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner** on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### MICHIGAN

#### Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

**St. Patrick's Day** will be celebrated at the Club on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

Fr. Joe celebrated **Mass** at the Club on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the **first Friday in Lent**. **Dinner** was available downstairs either prior to or after Mass.

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Maltese Center NYC

**Mass** was celebrated by **Fr. Anthony Saliba** at the Club on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by a **Reception** to welcome **Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia**, speaker of the House of the Republic of Malta (see pages 9-10).

**Bingo** was played in the Lower Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### ONTARIO

#### Greater Toronto Area

#### Lehen Malti

**LEHEN MALTI**  
(Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 - Ontario  
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.  
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC  
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta  
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

### Malta Band Club

The **AGM** and **Election** of the **Executive Committee** for 2025 took place on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> (see page 4).

The **Spring Concert**, the first concert of 2025, will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.



A **Bus Trip** to **Casino Niagara** is being organized for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Fenkata Night** is scheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **Valentine Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls, Ontario was the destination of a **Bus Trip** on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A **Carnival Dinner Party** was held on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (see pages 13-14).

The **St. Patrick's Dinner Dance** will take place on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A **Bus Trip** to **Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls, New York** is scheduled for Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a **Fenkata Dinner** on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

The **Casino Rama Bus Trip** is planned for Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

**Chalice**, Canada's largest Catholic child sponsorship organization was present at the February 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Masses.

**FEEDBACK FROM  
THE CHALICE  
SPONSORSHIP WEEKEND**

I am writing to extend my deepest gratitude for your overwhelming support and generosity in signing up for the Chalice sponsorship. We had an incredible 10 people step forward to sponsor a child, which speaks volumes about the love and commitment our small parish has for helping those in need.

The warm welcome she received from all of you deeply touched Andrea Scoscia, the representative from Chalice. She mentioned that in larger parishes, sometimes only a few individuals sign up for sponsorship. However, she found our parish's generosity and love, despite our smaller numbers, extremely impressive.

Andrea also expressed her admiration for our dedication to the church and our desire to help out. I shared with her that while our parish may be small in numbers; we are great in our love, dedication, and faith in God.

Your unwavering support is truly inspiring and reflects the strength and unity of our community. Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.


**Hamilton**

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



Maltese Canadian Association  
of The City of Hamilton  
presents

**Way of the Cross Art Exhibit**

with Joseph Brincat

**St. Francis Xavier Church**

304 Highway 8, Stoney Creek

March 21 - 23, 2025

Remembering our past members mass March 22 @ 5pm

**Regina Mundi Church**

631 Mohawk Rd. W, Hamilton

March 28 - 30, 2025

Remembering our past members mass March 29 @ 5pm

**Sacred Heart Church**

19 Viewpoint Ave, Hamilton

April 6 - 7, 2025

Remembering our past members mass March 6 @ 9am  
Tea, coffee & refreshments after mass in the church hall



A **Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** followed the 9:15 a.m. Mass on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a **Lenten Mission** on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. On the evenings of April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, **Fr. Massimo** will celebrate Mass and deliver the homily. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, **Fr. Jimmy Zammit** will celebrate Mass. This will be followed by devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows.

**London**

A **Luncheon** was held at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> (see pages 10-12).

Our next luncheon will be at Tony's Pizza, on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Windsor****Malta United Society**

A **St. Patty's Day Patata fil-Forn Dinner** will take place on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

A **Ravioli Dinner** will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Corrections to the February Issue  
of This Newsletter**

The bottom two captions on page 4 should read "**Vice President JD Vance**" and "**Dr. Kay & Ambassador Godfred Xuereb**" respectively.

**WASHINGTON, DC****Embassy of Malta**

On Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, the **Embassy of Malta to the US** hosted the members of the **Women's Diplomatic Series** for an afternoon panel discussion (see pages 7-8).

**The Annual US Hon Consuls meeting, with the participation on Residency Malta and Malta Enterprise took place in San Francisco on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**KNIGHTS OF MALTA ON OAK ISLAND?**

**Dan Brock**

For the past several years, I have been one of those addicted to watching the multi-season reality television series *The Curse of Oak Island*. This chronicles a team of treasure hunters run by brothers Marty and Rick Lagina of Michigan. Oak Island is off the south shore of Nova Scotia.

Since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century people have been looking for a "money pit" and artifacts on this island.

In a recent episode of this series, there seems to be evidence that members of the Knights of Malta had visited Oak Island some centuries ago.

## AN AFTERNOON PANEL DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S DIPLOMATIC SERIES

Embassy of Malta  
to the United States of America



The Embassy of Malta to the US hosted the members of the Women's Diplomatic Series, on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, for an afternoon panel discussion which featured Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and his spouse, Dr. Kay Xuereb. Both spoke about their work at the Embassy and careers throughout the years.



**Dr. Kay Xuereb**



The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Cristina Hilsenrath, who is the President of the board of the Women's Diplomatic Series.



**Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb**



**Dr. Kay Xuereb, Ms. Cristina Hilsenrath,  
and Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb**



Another special thanks goes to Malta Joe's Baked Goods LLC of Tucson, Arizona, for the mouthwatering pastizzi 😋



It was a pleasure hosting everyone and we would like to thank Ms. Hilsenrath for the opportunity 🇲🇹🇺🇸



**CELEBRATING THE FEAST ST. PAUL****Maltese Center, NYC**

On Friday February 14th we celebrated the Feast of St. Paul at the Maltese Center. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Anthony Saliba

**Fr. Anthony Saliba****Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia and  
Ms. Denise Demicoli**

A reception was held after Mass to welcome the Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia, speaker of the House of the Republic of Malta.



It was an evening enjoyed by all. 🇲🇹



**Hon. Dr. Angelo Farrugia and Eddie Debono,  
President of the Maltese Center, NYC**



## OUR FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

**Dan Brock**

This month's luncheon of the London and area group was held at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South in London on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Among the more than 35 present were three new faces, namely those of Tom Harnsworth, Sandy Flay and Vicky Van Der Heyden.



**Bernadette & Joe Gall**



**Tony & Lynda Galea and Mike Ditchfield**



**Helen Ditchfield, Carol Hilton & Terry Rogers**



**Melrose Paquet, Miranda & Deo Catania**



**Carmen Farrugia and Joyce Vella**



**Joe & Tessie Mallia and Elsa Zammit**

Three recent or impending birthdays were celebrated, namely those of Linda Clifford, Joyce Vella and Miranda Catania.



**Mary Vella, Paul Zammit, and Linda Clifford**



**Gloria Heffler, Gerry & Joe Borg**



**Janet Peckham, Loretta & Dan Brock**



**Mariam & Ron McLean**



**Brian Groulx and Janice & Charles Vella**

Among the more than 35 present this afternoon were three new faces—Tom Harmsworth, Sandy Flay and Vicky Van Der Heyden.



**Sandy Flay and Vicky Van Der Heyden**

Sandy and Vicky were among the five women at this luncheon who were daughters of post-war Maltese “pioneers” who immigrated to Canada in 1948. Their father Emmanuel “Emilo” Crescuolo came out on the *Vulcania* and disembarked in Halifax, Nova Scotia in June. Their mother and two older siblings landed in New York Harbor on board the *Radnik* in October.

Maryanne Aitken’s father, Roger Harmsworth, and Loretta Brock’s father, Edward “Ed” Scicluna, also arrived on the *Vulcania* in June. It was in December 1952, however, before Maryanne’s mother, Catherine “Kitty” Cachia, and her mother arrived in New York Harbor via the *Nea Hellas*. Loretta, her mother, and siblings arrived in New York Harbor on board the *Vulcania* one year later in June 1949.

Elsa Zammit’s father Saviour “Sam” Ciantar, arrived at Halifax on board the *Marine Perch* in May 1948, a month earlier than Emilo Crescuolo, Roger Harmsworth, and Ed Scicluna. Like Sandy and Vicky’s mother and siblings, Elsa, her mother, and older brother John came out on the *Radnik* in October 1948.



**Ken Lee & Evelyn Rowles and Tom Harmsworth**



**Jim & Maryanne Aitken**

Once again, it was a pleasure to get together and chat with family and friends and make new acquaintances. We plan to do the same on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at Tony’s Pizza.

**CARNIVAL DINNER PARTY****Mary Ann Piscopo**

Fifty people attended our Carnival Dinner Party at the Melita Soccer Club in Toronto, on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Rabbit on spaghetti was the meal**



**Dessert was strawberry shortcake**





## **WELCOMING THE AMBASSADOR OF MALTA TO THE UNITED STATES**

**Rita Borg**

On Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we welcomed H.E. Dr. Godfrey C. Xuereb, Ambassador of Malta to the United States of America, at the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco.



**Honorary Consul General of Malta  
in San Francisco Louis J. Vella**



**Club President Mary Vella Gomes**





**Ms. Denise Demicoli**



**H.E. Dr. Godfrey C. Xuereb**











## GLEANINGS FROM PAST NEWSLETTERS

Dan Brock

On Saturday, March 20, 1982, the Maltese Canadian Social Club of Guelph, Ontario planned to hold a "get-together" at the Odd Fellows Temple on Albert Street in Guelph. In keeping with a Maltese tradition children were welcomed at this event.



The Maltese Canadian Club of London, Ontario, intended to hold a St. Patrick's Dance at the Labourers International Union Local 1059 on the west side of Clarke Side Road in London on Saturday, March 17, 1984.

**Maltese Canadian Club**  
**OF**  
**London**  
**PRESENTS**  
**St. Patrick's Dance**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**AT**  
**557 CLARKE SIDE RD. LONDON**  
**MUSIC: DISC JOCKEY**  
**DOORS OPEN 7:30 P.M.**  
**DANCE: 8:30 TILL 1:00 A.M.**  
**TICKETS \$5.00 ADVANCE**  
**\$6.00 AT DOOR**

## DINING AT THE SOCIAL CLUB IN SAN FRANCISCO



Photos courtesy of Rita Borg. See pages 1, 15-22.