



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 71

APRIL 2025

CELEBRATING THE ST. PATRICK CORKTOWN RACE AT THE MALTESE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN DETROIT



See pages 21-23, 40.
Photo courtesy of Bonnie Sparks.

The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 71

April 2025

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Here in this issue two features dominate these pages: one is the St. Patrick's Day celebrations within several of the clubs (see pages 1, 18-22, 23-24, and 40) and the other are the activities of the Embassy of Malta to the United States of America over the past several weeks. (see pages 7-17).

Here in North America, St. Patrick's Day seems to be a time for greater celebration generally among the Maltese clubs than that of any other saint. This may very well be because March 17th appears to be more of a fun day than other feast day among Christians in North America and it is a day celebrated by the majority of Canadians and Americans in general.

As for members of the Maltese Embassy in the United States, not only have they been attending functions in Washington, DC, but also in Metro Detroit and San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the group in London have gathered for another monthly luncheon; the Malta Band Club held a seafood fest; the Malta United Society of Windsor had a ravioli dinner; St. Paul the Apostle Parish held its annual seder meal; and the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn took part in a figolli demonstration.

Of an historical note is the San Ġorġ Martri Band being the first Maltese band to visit North America.

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.

I wish you and your families a Happy Easter.

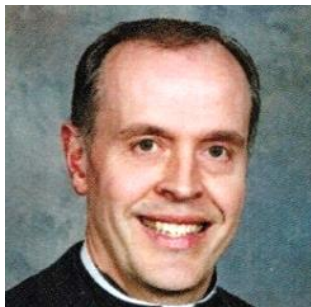


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ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO, CANADA

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 March 15th-16th

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have recently signed up to volunteer in our parish ministries and groups. With 10 new volunteers stepping forward, especially considering the size of our parish, we are truly blessed. Your willingness to serve is a reflection of your love for Christ and His Church. For those still discerning, there are many opportunities in the coming weeks to join a ministry or group. I encourage you to take time in prayer and consider how you can use your gifts to contribute to our mission of spreading Christ's love. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers to keep our parish thriving and our mission alive.

Parish Bulletin for March 22nd-23rd

Here are some insights to help you pray more effectively, prepare your heart for Easter, and embrace the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Praying More Effectively

Prayer is the cornerstone of our relationship with God. To pray more effectively:

- 1. Create a Sacred Space:** Dedicate a quiet corner in your home for prayer. A crucifix, a candle, or an image of the Virgin Mary can help set the tone.
- 2. Follow Structure:** Begin with adoration, praising God for His greatness. Move to thanksgiving, expressing gratitude for His blessings. Then, offer contrition, seeking forgiveness for your sins, and conclude with supplication, presenting your needs and the needs of others.
- 3. Use Scripture:** Meditate on passages from the Bible, such as the Psalms or the Gospels. Let God's word guide your thoughts and prayers.

4. Practice Silence: In the stillness, listen for God's voice. Prayer is not just speaking to God but also being open to His presence.

5. Pray the Rosary: This traditional Catholic devotion helps focus the mind and heart on the mysteries of Christ's life.

Preparing for Easter

Easter is the pinnacle of our faith, celebrating Christ's resurrection. To prepare:

1. Embrace Lenten Practices: Use this time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines help us detach from worldly distractions and draw closer to God.

2. Participate in Holy Week Liturgies: Attend the Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services. Each offers profound reflections on Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

3. Reflect on Baptismal Promises: Renew your commitment to live as a disciple of Christ, remembering the grace of your baptism.

Going to Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a beautiful way to experience God's mercy. Here's how to approach it:

1. Examine Your Conscience: Reflect on your actions, thoughts, and omissions. Consider how you have lived in accordance with God's commandments and the teachings of the Church.

2. Express Contrition: Be truly sorry for your sins and resolve to avoid them in the future.

3. Confess Your Sins: Begin with, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [time] since my last confession." Be honest and thorough, trusting in God's mercy.

4. Receive Absolution: Listen as the priest absolves you of your sins, and feel the weight lifted from your soul.

5. Complete Your Penance: Fulfil the penance given by the priest as a sign of your repentance.

As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, let us strive to deepen our prayer lives, seek reconciliation with God, and embrace the hope and joy of Easter. May this season bring you closer to Christ and fill your heart with His peace.

Parish Bulletin for March 29th-30th

As we draw closer to Holy Week, the most solemn and sacred time in our Christian calendar, let us take this opportunity to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to live as disciples of Christ.

Let us journey through Holy Week with reverence and gratitude, embracing the profound love and sacrifice of our Saviour.

BANDA SAN ĠORĠ MARI OF QORMI COMES TO NORTH AMERICA**Joe Sherri**

In 1993 the Banda San Ġorġ Martri from Qormi, Malta was celebrating its 100th year anniversary. In order to commemorate this historical event, the band committee, together with the committee of the Festa San Ġorġ Association of Toronto, made arrangements to bring the band from Malta to Canada. The San Ġorġ Martri Band was the first Maltese band to cross the Atlantic and visit North America. It arrived in Toronto on 1 March 1993 and on the 6 March, together with the Malta Band of Toronto, they performed a concert at St Paul the Apostle Church. The concert was organized by the Pastor, Fr. Raymond Falzon, and was attended by a packed church.

On the 13 March, the San Ġorġ Martri Band, accompanied by band players from the Malta Band, together with the Festa San Ġorġ Association, celebrated the feast of St George at St John Lithuanian Hall in Mississauga. This event was attended by a crowd of 700 people that came from all over Canada and the US.

Following on the success of the visit of the Banda San Ġorġ Martri, the Festa San Ġorġ Association organized other band visits: the Anici Band from Qormi, La Stella Band from Rabat (Victoria), Gozo, and Banda Kristu Re from Raġal Ġdid (Paola). These Maltese bands had always performed at the yearly Feast of St George to the delight of all the Maltese community.

***Banda San Ġorġ Martri***

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

A **St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance** took place on Saturday, March 15th. (See pages 18-20, 40.)

A **Rummage Sale** was held on Saturday-Sunday, April 12th-13th.

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

A **Mother's Day Dinner Dance** is planned for Saturday, May 10th.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

The Club was open on Sunday, March 16th in connection with the annual **St. Patrick Corktown Race**, while **St. Patrick's Day** was celebrated at the Club the next day (See pages 1, 20-22, 40.)

The Club was open on Friday, April 4th for the

Detroit Tigers Opening Day Game!

The **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**, with a **Nacho Bar**, will take place on Sunday, May 4th.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

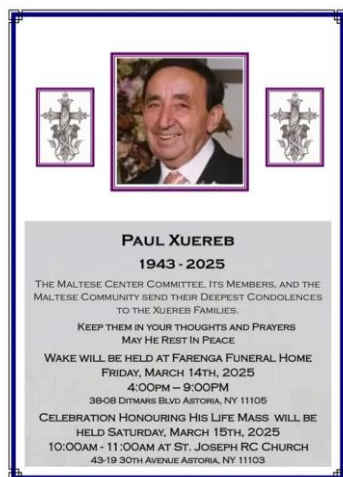
A traditional **St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner** with cabbage, potatoes, and carrots was available at the Club on Friday, March 15th.

A hands-on **Figolli Demonstration** took place on the afternoon of Sunday, April 6th. (See pages 30-33.)

An **Octopus, Cheese Ravioli, or Baked Pastizzi Dinner** will be available on Good Friday, April 18th.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center NYC



An exhibit and display of the **Via Sacra** took place at the Center on the evening of Saturday, April 12th. (See page 22.)

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Malta Band Club

The **Spring Concert**, the first concert of 2025, was held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15th.

A **Bus Trip to Casino Niagara** took place on Saturday, March 22nd.

A **Seafood Fest** was held on Wednesday, March 26th. (See pages 27-29.)

Fenkata Night is planned for Saturday, April 26th.

There will be a **Club Luncheon** on Wednesday, May 14th.

The **MBC Anniversary Dance** will be held on Saturday, May 31st.

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.

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

The **St. Patrick's Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, March 22nd. (See pages 23-25, 40.)

A **Bus Trip to Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls, New York** took place on Saturday, March 29th.

A **Fenkata Dinner** was held on Saturday, April 5th.

The **Casino Rama Bus Trip** is planned for Saturday, April 28th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

The annual **Seder Meal** was observed on the evening of Saturday, April 5th. (See pages 33-36.)

A **Lenten Mission** was conducted on April 9th, 10th, and 11th. On the evenings of April 9th and 10th, **Fr. Massimo Buttigieg** celebrated Mass and delivered the homily. On April 11th, **Fr. Jimmy Zammit** celebrated Mass. This was followed by devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows.

The 9:15 a.m. **Mass** on Tuesday, April 15th was celebrated in both **English and Maltese**.

A **Farewell Reception** will be held in the Lower Hall, following the morning Mass on Wednesday, April 16th in honour of Ms. Ruth Farrugia, the **Consul General of Malta to Toronto**, who will be returning to Malta at the end of April.

Prayer Service in the **Lower Hall**, at 10:30 a.m. on **Good Friday**, will be in **Maltese**.

The 10:30 **Mass** on **Easter Sunday** will be in both **English** and **Maltese**.

Fr. Roy Farrell's last day as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish will be on June 25th. He leaves to take up the role of Spiritual Formation at St. Augustine's Seminary. The new pastor will be **Fr. James Bussanich** who is currently pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Phelpston and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Elmvale to the north of Barrie, Ontario.

Hamilton

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

The Way of the Cross Art Exhibit with Joseph Brincat was displayed at St. Francis Xavier Church, Stoney Creek, on March 21st-23rd; at Regina Mundi Church, Hamilton, on March 28th-30th; and at Sacred Heart Church, Hamilton, on April 6th-7th.

London

A **Luncheon** was held at **Tony's Pizza**, on Wednesday, March 26th. (See pages 25-26.)

The next **Luncheon** will take place at the **Swiss Chalet**, off Wonderland Road South, on Tuesday, April 29th.

Windsor

Malta United Society

A **St. Patty's Day Patata L-Forn Dinner** took place on Saturday, March 15th.

A **Ravioli Dinner** was held on Saturday, March 29th. (See page 30.)

On April 18th the Club will be hosting its annual **Good Friday Fish Dinner**. Options are **Ricotta Torta** or **Cobb Salad**.

WASHINGTON, DC

Embassy of Malta

Consul-on-the-Move missions were held in **Metro Detroit** and in **San Francisco** on the weekend of February 8th-9th and on Sunday, March 2nd respectively. (See pages 7-9.)

This year's **Honorary Consul Conference** was held in **San Francisco** on Saturday, March 1st. (See pages 10-12.)

Meetings with **San Francisco's Mayor Daniel Lurie** and **Representatives from the San Francisco Film Commission** took place on Monday, March 3rd. (See page 13.)

On Thursday March 6th, **Dr. Kay Xuereb** hosted a **Group of Ambassadors' Spouses**. (See pages 14-15.)

A visit by **Members of Malta's Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works** took place at the Embassy on Wednesday, March 12th. (See page 16.)

The second session of the **Embassy Adoption Programme** was also held on Wednesday, March 12th. (See page 17.)



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Brock,

I hope this message finds you well.

This year the Parish of Mosta is commemorating a significant milestone – the **50th Anniversary of the Coronation of the Titular Painting of the Assumption of Our Lady**, an event deeply cherished by the Mostin community both in Malta and abroad.

To mark this special occasion, various initiatives are being organized by **Grupp Armar Marija Assunta Mosta** in collaboration with, and the support of, the Mosta Parish and the Mosta Rotunda Foundation. Our aim is not only to celebrate locally but also to reach out to our fellow Mostin emigrants around the world who hold these traditions close to heart.

We would be grateful if you could kindly share information about these initiatives with the Mosta community residing in North America, encouraging them to stay connected and participate, even from afar.

They can follow updates and details on the official website: www.50senainkurunata.com and

additionally, they are welcome to get in touch with us directly via email:

info@50senainkurunata.com

Your assistance in helping us reach our wider Mostin family is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support 😊

Warm regards,

Keith Cassar

Sotto Kumitat | 50 Sena Inkurunata 1975 - 2025



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Triq il-Bażilika,

Il-Mosta

Mob: +356 79011229

CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE MISSIONS HELD IN METRO DETROIT AND SAN FRANCISCO

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

February-March was a busy time for the Embassy of Malta to the US with the Maltese Diaspora MTUS.

The Embassy of Malta to the US held two Consul-on-the-Move missions in Michigan and San Francisco less than a month apart. Consul Petra Grech held a total of 133 appointments in these two states, which are home to a large Maltese Diaspora.

Whilst in Michigan on the weekend of February 8th-9th, Consul Grech had the opportunity to visit both Maltese Clubs, the one in Dearborn as well as the other one situated in Detroit. Many thanks to Honorary Consul Paul Martin Borg for coordinating the visits to the clubs, leading the team who organised the Fenkata at the Dearborn Club for St. Paul's Feast as well as assisting Consul Grech during the consular appointments.



**Chief chef Paul Borg
serving the rabbit dinner**

In San Francisco, the Embassy of Malta to the US had the opportunity to visit the Maltese American Club on Sunday, March 2nd, where Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb delivered a speech and presented a plaque to the President of the Club.



**Those who prepared and served the traditional
Maltese rabbit dinner at the
Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
on Saturday, February 8th**



H.E. Dr. Godfrey C. Xuereb



**Mary Vella Gomes,
President of the Club, accepting the plaque**

A Citizenship Ceremony also took place whereby Ambassador Xuereb and Honorary Consul Louis Vella distributed the certificates.





During the same visit, teams from Malta Enterprise and Residency Malta were present and had the opportunity to speak directly with the Maltese Community in San Francisco.



Thanks goes to Honorary Consul Vella for coordinating the visit and assisting Consul Grech in organising the consular appointments.



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

The Embassy would like to extend its gratitude to all the clubs for their hospitality and generosity. The Maltese spirit is kept alive in the US thanks to these hard-working and passionate board members and volunteers at these clubs 🇲🇹 🌍

Editor's Note: Earlier accounts of Consul-on-the-Move visits to the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn and the Maltese America Benevolent Society in Detroit appeared in the February 2025 issue of this newsletter by Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci (pages 1, 17-22) and Tanya Caruana (pages 23, 28) respectively.

An account of visit to the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco, by Rita Borg, appeared on pages 1, 15-22 of the March 2025 issue.

HONORARY CONSUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO

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

This year's Honorary Consul Annual Conference was organised by the Embassy of Malta to the US and hosted, on Saturday, March 1st, by Honorary Consul Louis J. Vella in San Francisco.

After Honorary Consul Vella welcomed the participants, the conference was opened with introductory remarks by Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb, Director for Consular Services Chirelle Ellul Sciberras and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism Ian Borg. Ambassador Xuereb concluded the meeting with a summary of the programme and the planned way forward.

This year's edition focused on residence as well as conducting business in Malta as the main thematic areas. In fact, delegations from Residency Malta Agency, led by Mr. Jonathan Cardona, and Malta Enterprise, led by Mr. George Gregory, travelled to San Francisco to deliver presentations during this conference. The Embassy would like to thank them for attending and sharing such valuable information.



**Luis Enrique IV Santaliz-Ruiz,
Malta Consul, Puerto Rico**



Paul M. Borg, Malta Consul, Detroit



M. Sean Murphy, Malta Consul, Denver



Nathalie Farrugia, Malta Enterprise



Arthur J. Furia, Malta Consul, Miami



Henry V. Capello, Malta Consul, Phoenix





A special thanks goes to Residency Malta for its kind support in making this event possible. The Embassy would also like to extend its gratitude to the General Manager at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins San Francisco, Mr. Michael Pace, who ensured that our stay was an excellent one, as well as Mr. Louis J. Vella for hosting us in sunny San Francisco 🇲🇹🇺🇸



**Honorary Consul Louis J. Vella,
San Francisco**

MEETINGS WITH MAYOR DANIEL LURIE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO FILM COMMISSION

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and Honorary Consul Louis J. Vella had the honour of meeting with the Mayor of San Francisco, Daniel Lurie, on Monday, March 3rd. An interesting discussion took place during which Ambassador Xuereb had the opportunity to speak about the Embassy's work and Malta's key foreign policy objectives 🇲🇹

Lastly, Ambassador Xuereb also met with representatives from the San Francisco Film Commission, whereby numerous initiatives were outlined during the discussion 🇲🇹



Mayor Daniel Lurie and
Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb



HOSTING A GROUP OF AMBASSADORS' SPOUSES

Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America

The Embassy of Malta to the US hosted a group of Ambassadors' Spouses on Thursday, March 6th.



Dr. Kay Xuereb led the session where she invited Ms. Brigid Keenan to speak about her book entitled, *Diplomatic Baggage: The Adventures of a Trailing Spouse*. A fruitful discussion ensued which revolved around Ms. Keenan's experiences as an ambassador's spouse throughout the years, which are featured in her book.



The session ended with a special treat where the spouses got to taste some traditional Maltese food and sweets 🇲🇹





A VISIT BY MEMBERS OF MALTA'S MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

On Wednesday, March 12th, The Embassy of Malta to the US had the pleasure of hosting Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Public Works Honourable Chris Bonett, Permanent Secretary Bjorn Callus, and the rest of the Maltese delegation from the same Ministry 🇲🇹🇺🇸



**Permanent Secretary Bjorn Callus
with Minister Bonett and Ambassador Xuereb**



**Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb
and Honourable Chris Bonett**



An interesting discussion took place between the Ministerial Delegation as well as Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and his team. Ambassador Xuereb also briefed the Delegation about the Embassy's varied work in the US and with the Maltese Diaspora 🇲🇹

EMBASSY ADOPTION PROGRAMME

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

The Embassy of Malta held its second Embassy Adoption Programme session on Wednesday, March 12th.

This session steered away from the norm since the students got to embark on an adventure back in time with Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette and the Golden Bee. The Grandmaster captivated the children by reading out David Walliams' *The Golden Bee Adventure* which speaks about Malta during the Great Siege of 1565 and World War II. The students were then presented with a small token, being the Knight of Malta Playmobil model, and Twisteers 🇲🇹🐝

This session was planned out and executed by Dr. Kay Xuereb, Mr. Jean Paul Gatt, and Ms. Petra Grech.



Dr. Kay Xuereb



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

Rita Borg

Our St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance, celebrated on Saturday, March 15th, was a fun event: good food, good music, and awesome guests.





In honor of the Irish, we had a main meal with yummy corned beef, carrots, potatoes, and cabbage.



A dance followed the meal.



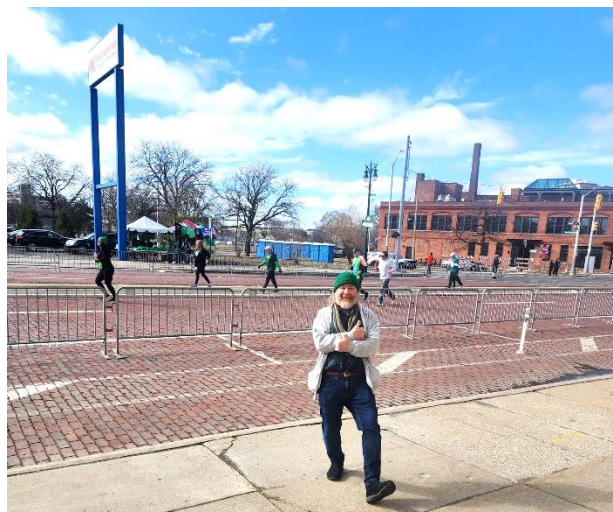
Thank you, Peter Abela for taking the pictures.



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Bonnie Sparks

The Maltese America Benevolent Society in Detroit was open on Sunday, March 16th for the 42nd anniversary of the holding of the St. Patrick Corktown Race. This race made its debut in 1983 and is still owned and operated by the Fraternal Order of United Irishmen.





The next day, Monday, March 17th, saw the Club's celebration of St. Patrick's Day.



**The Restored Michigan Central Train Station
in the Corktown District**



VIA SACRA

Maltese Center, NYC

Maltese traditions were upheld with the exhibit and display of the Via Sacra at the Center on the evening of Saturday, April 12th.

Fr. Anthony Saliba, the Center's Chaplain, presented the meanings and details of the Stations, along with prayers dedicated for Good Friday and Easter.

Pastizzi and baked macaroni were available at the concession.

There was also an Easter egg hunt with the Easter Bunny for the kids.



ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE**Mary Ann Piscopo**

Our St. Patrick's Dinner Dance was held at the Melita Soccer Club on Saturday, March 22nd.







LUNCH AT TONY'S PIZZA

Dan Brock

On Wednesday, March 26th, more than 25 of us got together for our monthly luncheon. This month it was a buffet-style meal at Tony's Pizza on Dundas Street in East London.



Charlene Paquet, Carmen Farrugia,
and Joe & Gerry Borg



Joe & Bernadette Gall



**Miriam McLean, Sandy Flay,
Vicky Van Der Heyden, Brian Groulx,
Mary Melvin, and Ron McLean**



Jim McDonald, Ted & Barbara Gauci



**Mary Vella, Dan & Loretta Brock,
and Bernadette Guite**



Connie Hislop and Janet Peckham



**Tony Galea, Elsa Zammit, Paul Zammit,
Mary Vella, and Lynda Galea**

In last month's issue it was mentioned that five of the women present at our February luncheon were daughters of the Maltese "pioneers" who immigrated to Canada in May-June 1948. Four of them were at the March luncheon.

Elsa Zammit is the daughter of Saviour "Sam" Ciantar who came out on the *Marine Perch* in May 1948. Loretta Brock's father, Edward Scicluna arrived at Halifax, on board the *Vulcania* in June. Likewise, Sandy Flay and Vicky Van Der Heyden's father, Emmanuel "Emilo" Crescuolo, also sailed on the *Vulcania*.



**Elsa Zammit, Loretta Brock,
Sandy Flay, and Vicky Van Der Heyden**

A SEAFOOD FEST

Malta Band Club

The seafood luncheon, on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 26th, at the Malta Band Club, was very successful with approximately 120 people enjoying a fantastic meal.

The meal started with an extensive antipasto table followed by a seafood pasta dish. The main course featured a large fish fillet with rice and assorted vegetables. The meal was followed by dessert, tea and coffee.



These luncheons are steadily gaining popularity among our members and friends and we thank everyone who attended for their support towards the MBC.

The next couple of events at the Club will be a traditional Fenkata on April 26th and another club luncheon on May 14.





A RAVIOLI DINNER

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

A ravioli dinner was held at the Club on the evening of Saturday, March 29th.



FIGOLLI DEMONSTRATION

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci

Sunday, April 6th was a fun day at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn passing on the Maltese Easter tradition of making figolli. We had a full house!

Margaret Muscat-Purdy organized the event. I took all the photos shown below, except for the one of Margaret and me.



A few of our volunteers: Mary Motowski, Rena Xuereb, and Nicholas Suchyta



Hey Rena, those pastizzi sure do look good!

Thank you to Angela Borg, Marlene Camilleri-Fillip, and Josephine Axiak for doing the demonstration.

Everyone had a good time.

We look forward to our next cooking demonstration. Hummmm. I wonder what we will be making next time! Stay tuned to find out!



Angela Borg, Marlene Camilleri-Fillip, and Josephine Axiak



Rolling out the dough



**It was an interactive demonstration
Anyone could come up and give it a try**



Nice to see so many people want to learn how to make figolli



Filling the figolli

The best part was getting the kids involved. They loved decorating their own figolli to take home.



Kids decorating their own figolli



Here's my sweet creation



Here's mine



And here's ours



Margaret Muscat Purdy and
Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci



Figolli and Qaghaq tal-Appostli
(Apostles' Bread Rings) for sale

ANNUAL SEDER MEAL AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH

Richard S. Cumbo

For the past number of years, St. Paul the Apostle Maltese Church in Toronto has celebrated the Passover Seder meal. The pastor of St. Paul is the one who initiates this event; this year it was Father Roy Farrell.

Passover seder is a symbolic and intricate meal along with specific readings describing every aspect of the Israelites' departure from bondage in ancient Egypt.

The actual meal consists of the consumption of four cups of wine, eating specific foods, readings, and telling stories.

The Apostles and Seder tables and all of the displays in the Lower Hall at St. Paul the Apostle were set up under the direction of Mrs. Josephine (Guza) Dingli with the assistance of St. Paul's Social Committee.



Guza Dingli





MC





Photos courtesy of Rose Cassar and Madlene Cumbo

This year over 100 persons attended this event on Saturday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m.

After the seder meal all present were served a chicken dinner.



READERS' COMMENTS RELATING TO THE MARCH ISSUE

Thank you, Dan, for another Newsletter full of information and pictures of the many activities that have taken place. I must congratulate you, for looking so relaxed and happy in page 11 of the folio. You are certainly doing a fine job.

Wishing you the best of health and continued success for the future.

George Stagno Navarra, Malta

Thanks as always for sharing the newsletter with us and keeping us updated with what is happening contemporarily in North America.

Stephanie Schembri, Archives Assistant,
National Archives of Malta, Rabat

MARIA CARMENA MICALLEF

Dan Brock

Carmena "Nena" Micallef (nee Vassallo) passed away on April 5, 2025. She was born in Mtarfa, Malta, on April 12, 1933. In 1954, Nena married Pawlu "Tiger" Micallef. The couple came to Canada in 1954, stayed but a few months before returning to Malta. They returned permanently to Canada in 1960 and settled in Etobicoke, Ontario.

Nena worked at Canada Packers until her retirement in 1990. She was "an incredible cook" of Maltese dishes and devoted to her family.

Predeceased by her son Vincent, her seven siblings, and her parents, she is survived by her husband Paul, their son Robert, his wife, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

GOOD FRIDAY RAVIOLI DINNER

TED GAUCI

Editor's note: This article appeared in the May/June 2011 issue of The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter. The dinner itself was held on the Club on Charterhouse Crescent in London, Ontario, on April 22, 2011.

For our ravioli dinner this year we had 115 guests and served approximately 82 dozen ravioli.



**Joe Pace arrives with his family.
One of our oldest members,
Joe arrived in Canada
on board the *Vulcania* in June 1948**

Compared to last year these numbers are a little low. Last year, however, we had three members each bringing a relatively large group of guests with them. It was easy to see that all who came enjoyed the food.



**Members of the Said family
enjoying their ravioli dinner,
while the 2006 Good Friday procession
in Zebbug is being shown**

Photos courtesy of Tony Galea

To compliment the dinner, we were able to show a Maltese Good Friday procession that took place in 2006 at Zebbug. Frank and Yvonne Gatt recorded the event while in Malta at that time. Many thanks to Frank for providing the DVD and allowing us to show it. Now that we own a projector and screen, it is a lot more convenient, and less expensive, to provide these kinds of shows.

Although the kitchen was prepared to start serving dinner at 2:00 p.m. we had very few guests arrive before 3:30 or so. It may be worth while to think of delaying the starting time by an hour or an hour-and-a-half next year. Any comments from the membership regarding the start time will be appreciated.

JOE PACE AND FRANK GATT, JUNE 1948

Dan Brock

The preceding article makes mention of both Joe Pace and Frank Gatt. The photos below were provided by the late Joe Pace and the late Frank and Yvonne Gatt respectively and were taken on Thursday, June 17, 1948, shortly before the *Vulcania* set sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia with both Joe and Frank on board.



**Joe Pace is the balding gentleman to our
immediate right of Archbishop Michael Gonzi
on the wharf in Floriana**



**Frank Gatt on the deck rail of the *Vulcania*, with
the Grand Harbour in the background**

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.omnitr.ca/shows/lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
416-571-3944
email lehenmalti@hotmail.com

Malta Band Club 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 a.m. – 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
416-909-7357/416-670-2662
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

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE VARIOUS MALTESE CLUBS



Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco



Maltese America Benevolent Society of Detroit



**Erica Muscat performs at the
Melita Soccer Club of Toronto**