



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 72

MAY 2025

PREPARING FOR A GOOD FRIDAY OCTOPUS DINNER AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN



See pages 12-13.
Photo courtesy of Martin Micallef.

The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 72

May 2025

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Washington, DC

Embassy of Malta to the
United States of America

MALTA

Gozo

Dr. Raymond C. Xerri

EDITORIAL COMMENT

When I begin the mock-up for each issue, I have very little knowledge of how the end product will appear. There are so many elements to consider.

In the end, however, even I am amazed at how everything seems to come together and the layout too is pleasing to the eye.

I'm so grateful to the many contributors who make each issue what it is. As Jimmy Fallon would say: "It's not a **ME** post but a **WE** post."

A first for this newsletter is the write-up on an event hosted by the Maltese Heritage Association of the San Francisco Area. In this case it's their Eleventh Annual Classic Car Show. Credit goes to Chuck Farrugia who took most of the photos shown in the article on pages 19-23.

Another first-time contributor to this newsletter is Mani Mifsud who provided most of the photos used for the piece on the Maltese-Canadian Museum being one of some 150 places to visit on the occasion of Toronto's "Doors Open." (See page 29.) Mani is no stranger to this newsletter, however, as he has appeared in various photos in relation to events held at the Museum.

Congratulations to the Museum and its curator Richard Cumbo on receiving Ontario Heritage Trust awards. (See pages 17-18, 32.)

Lastly, I must direct the reader to the article on pages 28 and 29, based on the herculean work of Dr. Raymond C. Xerri. I believe, like me, you will be in for a few surprises. After reading the piece, I would encourage you to read Dr. Xerri's paper entitled "The Gozitan Diasopora" found in Issue 5 of *Perspettivi A Gozo Review*.

The issues and latest "Table of Contents" of *The Maltese Presence in North America* are posted by Evelyn and Dennis Simmons 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 or would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com.

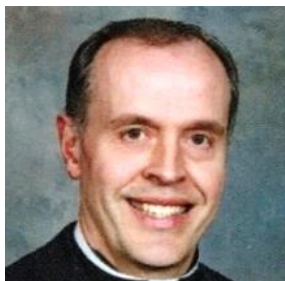
The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

CONTENTS

2. Editorial Comment
3. From the Desk of Fr. Roy...
4. Speaking at a High School European Debate
4. Grech-Cumbo Family Foundation Fundraiser
5. Activities within the Maltese Communities
8. Tony Pons in London, Ontario
9. Promoting Malta in Miami
10. Courtesy Call from Dr. Josianne Cutajar
10. Easter Egg Hunt
11. Good Friday Exhibit
12. Preparing for the Octopus Dinner at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
14. Sophia Vella, "Miss Malta" at Kennedy Elementary School
14. More on the Connection between Oak Island and the Knights of Malta
15. Our April Luncheon
17. Presentation of Ontario Heritage Trust Awards
19. Annual Classic Car Show
23. The Passing of Violet Antoinette Sillato
24. Fried Rabbit Dinner
25. EU Open House
27. Welsh Dragons Rugby Team Welcomed at the Melita Soccer Club
28. A Snapshot of Maltese and Gozitans Living Abroad
29. Maltese-Canadian Museum to Participate in Toronto's "Doors Open"
30. Maltese Organizations in North America

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 May 3rd-4th

As the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, the Mother of God, it is a time for deep reflection on her role in salvation history and the power of prayer—especially the Rosary. This cherished devotion not only draws us closer to Mary but also to her Son, Jesus Christ, through a meditation on His life, death, and resurrection.

The story of Louis Pasteur, a brilliant scientist and devout Catholic, offers a touching testimony to the comfort and grace that the Rosary can bring. As he approached his final moments, he asked his doctor to tell his wife that he died reciting the Rosary. This simple yet profound act speaks to the peace and hope that Mary offers to those who entrust themselves to her intercession.

Sacred Scripture reveals the significance of prayer in the life of Mary. Following Jesus' Ascension, the Blessed Mother gathered with the apostles in the upper room, praying fervently for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Her unwavering faith and steadfast devotion remind us of the power of prayer in times of uncertainty and transition.

Mary's role in salvation history is unparalleled. With a humble and courageous "yes" to God's plan, she became the Mother of the Savior. Through her willingness to surrender to divine will, she changed the course of human history—bringing forth the light of Christ into a world in need of redemption. Her example continues to inspire generations of Christians to live lives of faith, love, and obedience to God's will.

As her spiritual children, we look to Mary for guidance and encouragement. She calls us to be people of prayer, inviting us to deepen our relationship with her Son through the Rosary.

This treasured devotion is more than a series of prayers—it is a journey through Scripture, leading us to meditate on the joyful, sorrowful, luminous, and glorious mysteries of Christ's life. The Rosary is a gift that allows us to enter into the heart of the Gospel, strengthening our faith and drawing us ever closer to God.

The beauty of the Rosary lies in its simplicity and depth. It encompasses our most fundamental Catholic prayers—the Sign of the Cross, the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be—yet it provides a profound opportunity to contemplate the life of Christ. When recited with reverence and focus, the Rosary becomes a powerful channel of grace, transforming hearts and minds through the mysteries of salvation.

Distractions will inevitably arise as we pray, but instead of becoming discouraged, we should turn to the Holy Spirit, asking for guidance and perseverance. When we entrust our prayers to Mary with complete trust in her intercession, we open ourselves to the abundant graces she longs to pour out upon us. As the first and most faithful disciple of Christ, she walks with us, leading us ever closer to her Son.

During this sacred month of May, let us renew our devotion to the Blessed Mother and embrace the Rosary as a source of strength, peace, and spiritual renewal. In honoring Mary, we deepen our love for Christ, allowing His presence to transform our lives through prayer and faith.

A heartfelt congratulations to Richard Cumbo on receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. His tireless work and steadfast devotion to heritage preservation are an inspiration to many. His contributions have enriched the cultural fabric of the community, ensuring that Maltese traditions and history remain vibrant for generations to come.

And to the Maltese-Canadian Museum and its dedicated volunteers—what an extraordinary recognition of your leadership and service! This award for Community Leadership is a testament to your unwavering efforts in preserving, educating, and celebrating Maltese culture in Ontario. Your commitment, driven by pure passion, exemplifies the very best of volunteerism, and the community is stronger because of your hard work. Thank you for your invaluable contributions, your dedication, and your love for your heritage. Your work ensures that history remains alive and that future generations can take pride in their cultural identity. This achievement is truly well deserved! Bravo!

SPEAKING AT A HIGH SCHOOL EUROPEAN DEBATE

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

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb was invited to speak about the overall importance of the EU and EU-US relations at the Second Annual Virginia Tech and Virginia Beach City Public Schools European Union Debate held on Friday, April 4th.



Debate held at Ocean Lakes High School

Such an event has helped bring together 60 students from three high schools: Ocean Lakes HS, Tallwood HS, and First Colonial HS to engage in substantive debates on critical topics revolving around EU policies 🇪🇺🇺🇸



Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb



GRECH-CUMBO FAMILY FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Tanya Caruana and John Caruana

Thank you to the Grech-Cumbo Foundation for their continued sponsorship of our scholarships and all the donors who attended Tuesday's fundraiser on Tuesday, April 15th.

This beautiful evening commemorates the day the Maltese people received the George Cross for resilience and bravery during World War II.

The Grech-Cumbo Family Foundation Fund has annually been awarding children of Maltese members of the Maltese American Benevolent Society of Detroit scholarships towards college and university. The scholarship application process will open in later summer and the winners will be announced in early November.



ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

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

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

A **Mother's Day Dinner Dance** took place on Saturday, May 10th.

A **Father's Day Brunch** will be held on Sunday, June 15th.

Maltese Heritage Association of the San Francisco Bay Area

The 11th **Annual Classic Car Show** was held on Sunday, May 4th, at the College of San Mateo. (See pages 19-23.)

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

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

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held at 3:00 p. m. on Sunday, June 8th.

A **Rabbit Stew Dinner** is planned for Friday, June 20th.



1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48216 | 313.961.8393 | detroitmaltese.com | find us on facebook

RABBIT STEW DINNER

Join us on
Friday, June 20th at 6 p.m.
for a Rabbit Stew Dinner
in honor of L-Imnarja

Members \$20
Non-Members \$25

Tickets Available Now at the Bar
Cash & Credit Cards Accepted (Visa & MC)

Advanced Ticket Purchase Required
Limited extra food will be made!
Don't wait until it's too late!

L-Imnarja – the feast that celebrates light where the farmers gather to rest and
celebrate after a good harvest; folk singing also takes place

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
An **Octopus**, **Cheese Ravioli**, or **Baked Pastizzi Dinner** was available on **Good Friday**, April 18th.
(See pp. 1, 12-13)

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center, NYC

On Saturday, April 12th there was the **Exhibit and Display of the Via Sacra** presented by **Fr. Anthony Saliba**. (See page 11.) There were also **Activities** for the **Children** with the **Easter Bunny** and an **Easter Egg Hunt**. (See page 10.)

The **Good Friday Procession** (April 18th) was held at **Most Precious Blood Church**.

A **Mother's Day Bingo Brunch** was held on the **afternoon of Sunday, May 4th**.

A **Majjalata and L-Imnarja BBQ** will take place on the evening of Saturday, June 14th.

ONTARIO

Hamilton

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

This year's **Picnic** will again be held in **Hidden Valley Park, Aldershot** on June 22nd.

MCACH PICNIC



SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

HIDDEN VALLEY PARK • AREA #5
ALDERSHOT

ENJOY PASTIZZI & HOBZ BIZ-ZEJT
WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD TOO!

GAMES AND PRIZES FOR THE KIDS!

50/50 DRAW – CASH ONLY

PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 15:
mcach1964@gmail.com

**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 **Malta Band** performed at the **Village of Humber Heights Retirement Home** on Sunday, April 6th.

Liver, onions and potatoes was on the menu for the April 25th **Friday Night Dinner**.

Fenkata Night was held on Saturday, April 26th. Approximately 100 people enjoyed a great evening with family and friends having a delicious rabbit dinner and watching a Toronto Maple Leaf's hockey game.

The May 2nd **Friday Night Dinner** consisted of stuffed eggplant (*brunġiel mimli*) with oven baked potatoes.

Lasagna was on the menu for the May 9th **Friday Night Dinner**.

A **Club Luncheon** took place on Wednesday, May 14th.

The first **Car Show & Shine** of the season will take place on Sunday, May 25th



The Club's **Anniversary Dance** will be held on Saturday, May 31st.

The Malta Band Club Incorporated
is proud to present our

**54th Anniversary
Dinner & Dance**



which will take place on
Saturday May 31st, 2025 at 6:00PM
(5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga)

Members Price: \$40.00 per person

Non-Members Price: \$50.00 per person

**The Malta Band will perform a short concert
to beginning the evening's festivities.**

Dinner will include penne pasta with rose' sauce, a 10 oz.
stuffed chicken breast with spinach, feta cheese and sun-dried
tomatoes plus potatoes, carrots and broccolini.

Pastries, coffee and tea will be served after dinner.

The evening will include a cash bar and DJ for
your dancing pleasure.

To obtain tickets for this event, please contact Tony
at (365) 288-2177, Virginia at (416) 873-6013 or
the club directly at (905) 890-8507.

The **St. George's Dinner Dance** will take place
on Saturday, June 21st.

Maltese-Canadian Museum

The Museum received a **Community Leadership award**, presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at the **Ontario Heritage Trust Awards ceremony** which took place at Queens Park on Friday, April 25th at 4:00 p.m. On the same occasion, its **Curator Richard S. Cumbo** received a **Lifetime Achievement award**. (See pages 17-18, 32.)

Along with 150 other organizations, the Museum will be participating in Doors Open-Toronto on the weekend of May 24th-25th. A variety of events will take place at the Museum throughout the weekend. Admission is free. (See page 29.)

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

The **Dinner on Good Friday** was a **Maltese Delight**, consisting of tuna, potatoes, olives, cucumber, egg, tomato, cauliflower, fazoli, brussels sprouts, etc.

A **Bus Trip to Casino Rama Bus Trip** took place on Saturday, April 28th.

Fallsview Casino Bus Trips are planned for Saturday, May 24th and Saturday, June 14th.

The **Imnarja Picnic** is planned for Saturday, June 21st, with the **Imnarja Dinner Dance** to be held on Saturday, June 28th.

Maltese Canadian Cultural Association
Malta Fest Imnarja will be held at **Runnymede Park** in Toronto on Saturday, June 21st.



Once again, there will be a **Special Brew** for the occasion and people are invited to give the **Seltzer** a name.



St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A **Bus Trip** is planned to visit **St. Paul's Basilica** and the **St. Lawrence Market** on Thursday, June 5th. St. Paul's on Power Street dates back to 1822 and is the oldest Roman Catholic Parish in Toronto. **Mass** at the Basilica will be followed by a **Guided Tour**. **Lunch** and **Free Time** will follow at the Market.

London

The **Monthly Luncheon** was held on Tuesday, April 29th at the **Swiss Chalet** on Wonderland Road South in London. (See pages 15-16.)

The **May Luncheon** took place at the **Boston Pizza Restaurant**, Wellington Road South, in London on Thursday, May 22nd.

Our **June Luncheon** will be at the St. Thomas Steakhouse in **St. Thomas** on Thursday, June 19th.

Windsor

Malta United Society

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Sunday, April 27th. This was followed by an **All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner**.

On Saturday, May 31st, at 7:00 p.m., the Club will be hosting a **Ravioli Dinner**.



WASHINGTON, DC

Embassy of Malta

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb spoke at the **Second Annual Virginia Tech and Virginia Beach City Public Schools European Union Debate** held on Friday, April 4th. (See p. 4.)

On Wednesday, April 9th, **Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb** and **Dr. Kay Xuereb** participated in the **Malta Stand** at **Seatrade Cruise Global in Miami**. (See pages 9-10.)

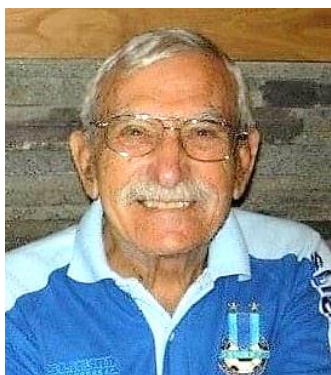
The Embassy received a **Courtesy Call** from **Dr. Josianne Cutajar**, on Wednesday, April 23rd. (See page 10.)

The Embassy took part in the **EU Open House** at the **EU Delegation** in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 10th. (See pages 25-26.)

TONY PONS IN LONDON, ONTARIO

Dan Brock

Anthony Lino "Tony" Pons was born in Malta on July 17, 1926 and died in Livonia, Michigan on May 6, 2021. He was predeceased by his wife, the former Catherine "Cathie" White and was survived by his daughter Leslie, son Paul and two grandchildren William and Ian.



Anthony Pons

On page 11 of Diane Gale Andreassi's book *Maltese in Detroit* (2011) is the photograph shown below bearing the caption "A group of immigrants set out for North America, going either to Canada or Detroit, around 1947, (Courtesy of Tony Pons.)"



Prime Minister Paul Boffa (with cigarette and holding hat), Joe Pace (short balding man to our right of Boffa) is looking over the shoulder of George Porter. Both Pace and Porter lived in the London, Ontario area at one time.

This photograph was taken on Thursday, July 17, 1948, on the dock in the Grand Harbour, Malta. Later that day, virtually all the men present in the photo, with the exception of Prime Minister Boffa of course, would be boarding the *Vulcania* bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

With the exception of John Francis Camilleri's intact family of six, the rest of the 342 emigrants who boarded the ship at this time for Canada were exclusively males, both married and single. There were also an additional 41 passengers from Malta whose destination was New York.

Among the men bound for Canada on board the *Vulcania* was Tony Pons, age 21, single and a tailor by trade. On arriving in Canada, he, like many others, ended up in London, Ontario where he lived before migrating to Detroit in 1952.



Tony Pons (left) and Frank Cauchi in London's Chelsey Green Park, 1949

By 1949, Tony was a tailor working at Simpsons Department Store on the southwest corner of Dundas and Richmond Streets and lived within walking distance on Cavendish Crescent just northwest of the Forks of the Thames.

A year later, he was working for Coca-Cola and living on Hyman Street north of Victoria Park.



Tony Pons on Hyman Street, London, 1949

Photos courtesy of the late Frank Cauchi who arrived in Canada from Malta, on board the Marine Perch in May 1948.

PROMOTING MALTA IN MIAMI

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

On Wednesday, April 9th, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and Dr Kay Xuereb participated in the Malta stand at Seatrade Cruise Global in Miami.

The Malta stand was led by Mr Carlo Micallef from the Malta Tourism Authority and had delegates from Malta International Airport, Valletta Cruise Port and a number of Maltese entrepreneurs involved in the cruise line business. Honorary Consul for Miami



**Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb
and Dr. Kay Xuereb**

Mr Arthur Furia also visited the Malta stand 




**Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb and
Honorary Consul of Miami Arthur J. Furia**



COURTESY CALL FROM DR. JOSIANNE CUTAJAR

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

The Embassy of Malta to the US received a courtesy call from Dr. Josianne Cutajar, on Wednesday, April 23rd. During the visit, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb spoke to Dr. Cutajar about the important work of the Embassy ranging from Political to Consular within the United States. It has been a pleasure to welcome Dr. Cutajar 



Dr. Godfrey Xuereb and Dr. Josianne Cutajar



EASTER EGG HUNT

Maltese Center NYC

An Easter egg hunt was held in the Lower Hall on Saturday, April 12th. The children were encouraged to have their photos taken with the Easter Bunny.

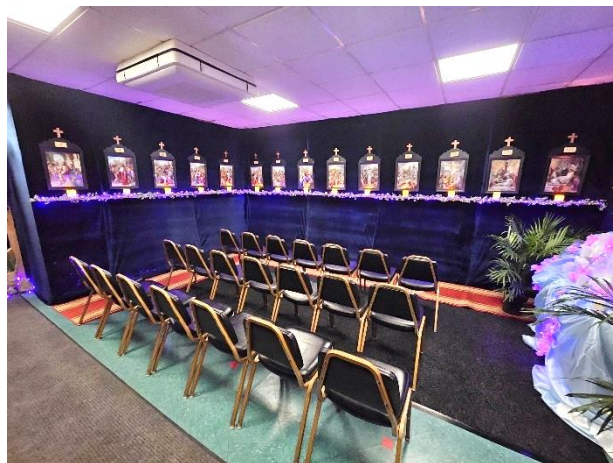
Baked macaroni and pastizzi were available for sale at the Concession.



GOOD FRIDAY EXHIBIT

Maltese Center NYC

On the evening of Saturday, April 12th, our chaplain Fr. Anthony Saliba led us in Good Friday Prayers. He went through the first ever Via Crucis Display at the Centers. This display was prepared by our very talented volunteers. There was also the blessing of palms which were available to take home.



This exhibit was also open to the public at the Center from 7:00 p.m. on April 18th (Good Friday).

PREPARING FOR THE OCTOPUS DINNER AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN

Martin Micallef

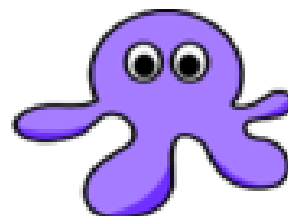
An octopus dinner was held this year at the Club on Good Friday, April 18th.



Martin Micallef



Neal Durkin





Paul Borg



A true Maltese dinner, including the knife



SOPHIA VELLA, “MISS MALTA” AT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mary R. Micallef

Sophia Vella, our Miss Malta, represented the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn and the Maltese Community by taking the opportunity (Tuesday, April 22?) to read at Kennedy Elementary School in Livonia, Michigan.



MORE ON THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OAK ISLAND AND THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Dan Brock

Are you, like me, addicted to *The Curse of Oak Island* saga? The episodes first aired on the History Channel on Sunday, May 4th and 11th showed part of the Oak Island team on the islands of Malta and Gozo last fall.

The result of their investigation is that there is now fairly conclusive evidence that the Knights of Malta had indeed set foot on Nova Scotia's Oak Island and were involved in the construction of a shaft and tunnel thereon.

Incidentally, when last in Malta in November 2023, I took a tour of some of the tunnels and the reservoirs beneath the city of Valletta as shown in the episode of *The Curse of Oak Island* aired on May 4th.

OUR APRIL LUNCHEON

Dan Brock

Once again, the venue of our monthly luncheon was the Swiss Chalet on Wonderland Road South in London, Ontario.

There, more than 30 of us gathered on Tuesday, April 28th. This included James Catania of Malta who was visiting family. Another out-of-town guest who was able to join us was one of my former high school students Gary Cauchi of California. In April 2024 he and Nancy, his wife, were also in town and joined our group at The Pickle Barrel on that occasion. (See April 2024 issue of newsletter.)

As usual the meal was great and the conversation pleasant.



**Vicki Van Der Heyden, Miriam & Ron McLean
and Sandy Flay**



**Tony & Carmen Cauchi
and Marlene & Frank Mifsud**



**Mike Ditchfield, Helen Ditchfield,
Lisa Paddon and Brian Groulx**



**Mary Vella, Linda Clifford,
Gloria Heffler and Joyce Vella**



Lynda & Tony Galea



**Joe Borg, Janice & Charles Vella, Gary Cauchi,
Dan & Loretta Brock and Gerry Borg**



**Ted & Barbara Gauci,
Rose & Charles Micallef**



Joe & Bernadette Gall



**Deo Catania, James Catania,
Miranda Catania**



**MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT
SOCIETY OF DETROIT
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2024-2025**

President	Carmen Nino
Vice President	Lino Sammut
Treasurer	Tanya Caruana
Sergeant at Arms	Harry Johnston
Trustees	Lily Micallef Mary Zammit Joe Said

**THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB
OF LONDON
COMMITTEE 2004-2005**

President	Joe Martinelli
Vice-President	Tony Cauchi
Treasurer	Carmelo Mizzi
Secretary	Pauline Wood
Trustees	Charlie Caruana Mary Caruana Tony Galea Frank Gatt John Spiteri

PRESENTATION OF ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST AWARDS

Dan Brock

The Museum received a Community Leadership award, presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, at the Ontario Heritage Trust Awards ceremony which place at Queens Park on Friday, April 25th at 4:00 p.m.



**Deborah Lightfoot, representing the
Maltese-Canadian Museum,
with John Ecker, Chair,
Board of Directors, Ontario Heritage Trust,
and Lieutenant Governor Edith Dumont**
Photo courtesy of Dahlia Katz



Photo courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo

On the same occasion, its Curator Richard S. Cumbo received a Lifetime Achievement award. Note that the medal with the red ribbon Knight Commander Richard S. Cumbo is wearing is part of the regalia of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta. He was knighted at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto in 1975 by Grandmaster Prince Roberto of Sicily.



**John Ecker, Richard S. Cumbo,
and the Honorable Edith Dumont**

Photo courtesy of Dahlia Katz



For 55 years of service



**The Hon. Edith Dumont,
Marthese Fenech and Madlene Cumbo**

Photos courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo



**Richard S. Cumbo with Alexa Gilmour,
MPP for Parkdale-High Park, Toronto, Ontario**



**Joan Carbonaro, a new Museum volunteer,
with Richard S. Cumbo**
Photos courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo



Museum volunteers: Carmen Galea (standing), Mary Agius, Debbie Lightfoot and Rose Cassar
Photo courtesy of Joan Carbonaro

ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW

**Chuck Farrugia and Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America**

The Maltese Heritage Association of the San Francisco Bay Area held its 11th Annual Classic Car Show at the College of San Mateo parking lot A on Sunday, May 4th.



It turned out to be a gorgeous California day. Classic car enthusiasts within the San Francisco Maltese Community are numerous, and therefore, their treasured machines adorned the entire parking area during the day with Sixties music playing in the background as well as Maltese delicacies/treats being sold.







1969 Camaro Z/28



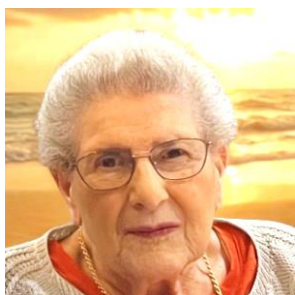


Trophies were distributed to the winners of the different classes and raffle prizes were won. A big thanks goes to the many generous donors.



THE PASSING OF VIOLET ANTOINETTE SILLATO

Dan Brock



Violet Sillato passed away on Friday, May 2nd at the age of 94.

She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Nazarene Michael Sillato who had died on February 9, 2013.

Michael was still single when he immigrated to Canada from Malta in 1952. Both he and Violet shared a career in banking.

Michael was a member of the Hospitallers Knights Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Dame Violet honourably served The Sovereign Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta for many years. About three years ago, she donated Michael's cape and regalia to the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto.

Both Michael and Violet helped establish the Malta Social Club in Whitby in 1969 and were held in high regard within the Maltese community in both Whitby and in Toronto.

Michael and Violet also devoted themselves to all aspects of Church functions, both in Holy Family Parish in Whitby and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto.

Violet was a member of the choir and at one time treasurer at St. Paul's. One of her last requests was that donations in her memory be made to the St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group.

Her Funeral Mass took place at St. Paul's on May 10th and her remains were placed next to that of her late husband in Assumption Cemetery in Mississauga.

FRIED RABBIT DINNER**Angela Borg**

The fried rabbit dinner at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on the evening of Friday, May 9th was a great success and yummy. Lots of hard work was put into preparing this Maltese traditional dinner. It was a full house, with both downstairs rooms packed.

Thanks to Paul, Joe, Neal, Doris, all the servers and everyone else that helped in any way. Great job guys.... Thank you!



Neal Durkin, Paul Borg and Doris Durkin



EU OPEN HOUSE

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

The Embassy of Malta to the US took part in the EU Open House at the EU Delegation in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 10th

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and the Malta Team were busy promoting Malta as a tourism destination as well as its traditions and cuisine during the day.





The team prepared some mouthwatering Maltese food; namely *gbejniet*, *bigilla*, *ħobż biż-żejt* as well as *galletti* and gave these out to passers-by to truly experience a taste of Malta. It was indeed a successful day where there were about 700 passers-by in a time span of six hours. Many thanks to the European Union in the United States, Printwell Inc., Mr. Paul Martin Borg, Ms. Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci, Ms. Maria Antonia Galea and the Malta Tourism Authority for making this event possible 🇲🇹🇺🇸



**WELSH DRAGONS RUGBY TEAM WELCOMED
AT THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB****Toronto Dragons RFC and Mary Ann Piscopo**

On Saturday, May 10th, Welsh Dragons Rugby Team kicked off its season with a delicious roast beef dinner, cooked by Laloj, and a raffle at the Melita Soccer Club of Toronto. Thanks goes to Iggy Vassallo and his son Steve for arranging this.

There was a great turnout of current players, partners and spouses, friends, family and old boys at what is the team's new club house after its home games and events.

The Team will be playing at the Eglinton Flats on Saturday, May 31st and coming back to the Club afterwards.

The Dragons gave the Melita Soccer Club a team jersey to show their gratitude for its hospitality.



A SNAPSHOT OF MALTESE AND GOZITANS LIVING ABROAD*

Dan Brock

A paper by Chev. Dr Raymond C. Xerri of Qala, Gozo, entitled "The Gozitan Diaspora," appeared in issue 5 (October 2024) of *Perspettivi A Gozo Review*.

His article is the culmination of three decades of research on the Maltese and Gozitans living abroad. The paper's abstract states that this "is the very first attempt ever in our nation's history to present scientific, data driven, thoroughly researched estimated information as to how many people of Gozitan origin live around the world."



Consul General Raymond Xerri with the Executive Committee of the Maltese-Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton, Nov. 8, 2019

"Gozo in the World and the World in Gozo" was the title of Dr. Xerri's Ph.D. thesis in 2002 at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. Over the years, he has published several scholarly articles on Gozo and the Gozitans. While Consul General of Malta in Canada, he presented me, in October 2019, with an autographed copy of his book *Gozitan Crossing: The impact of migration and return migration on an island community* (2005).

Dr. Xerri is convinced that the Gozitans have a distinct identity and that "Gozo is a global nation" vis-à-vis the Republic of Malta in much the same manner as the *Québécois* and the Province of Quebec are vis-à-vis Canada. In fact, I suspect that just as the former Province of Newfoundland is now the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Dr. Xerri would have no objections to the Republic of Malta becoming the Republic of Malta and Gozo. But I digress.

Dr. Xerri's findings as depicted in the chart below are based on "decades of ship and aircraft manifests, carrying Gozitans to many destinations, thousands of passport applications, the ability to scan White Pages and databases to decipher crucial information and statistics. In Malta, the databases of Santo Spirito National Archives, the National Archives in Gozo, the Gozo Curia lists, the Malta Migration Museum (MMM) Archives and the former Malta Emigration Department centuries' old documents which closed down in 1995" were also consulted.

Snapshot of the Estimated Diaspora from the Islands of Malta and Gozo (January 2024)¹

Country	Total Maltese and Gozitan Diaspora Population ²	Total Maltese Living Aboard	Total Gozitans Living Aboard
Australia	270,000	139,000	131,000
Canada	144,000	69,000	75,000
United States	133,000	65,000	68,000
France	123,000	38,000	85,000 ³
United Kingdom	74,000	39,000	35,000
All other countries	45,894	32,648	13,246
GRAND TOTAL	789,894	382,648	410,046

1. The margin of error ranges from +/- 2.5% to +/- 4.0%.
2. This includes Maltese and Gozitans who have Republic of Malta citizenship, as well as those living, from the first through the fifth generations, of Maltese and Gozitan descent who are not citizens of the Republic of Malta but have the potential of becoming so.
3. This also includes Gozitans of the sixth and seventh generation in France who originally migrated mainly to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco then went to France to settle there.

While none of us should be surprised to see that Dr. Xerri's findings show that, as of January 2024, more people from the Islands of Malta and Gozo were living in Australia than any other country outside Malta, some may be astonished to learn that Canada and not the United States ranks second. Personally, I was surprised to see that the United Kingdom ranked fifth rather than fourth.

What took me by complete surprise, however, was to learn that, while the Island of Gozo has a smaller population than the Island of Malta proportionally and numerically it outranks the latter within the Maltese-Gozitan Diaspora. Another eye-opener for me was to learn that the Gozitan diaspora outnumbers the Maltese absolutely in both Canada and the United States.

While I have used Dr. Xerri's chart on the previous page to compare the numbers of the Maltese and Gozitans within the Diaspora, it is the Gozitan diaspora which is the focus of his paper. His concluding remarks are as follows:

The Gozitan nation is far larger than we imagine, an international people with global outreach and unimaginable potential. I hope we Gozitans worldwide realise this potential, not discard or dismiss it, and we should not only embrace it but include our Diaspora in all our decision-making processes. It's time that we Gozitans mature as a nation and embrace this fascinating and enriching reality.

** I wish to publicly thank Dr. Raymond Xerri, for granting me access to his paper "The Gozitan Diaspora" and permitting me to use excerpts from it.*



MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM TO PARTICIPATE IN TORONTO'S "DOORS OPEN"

Mani Mifsud



Site of Maltese-Canadian Museum



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

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:
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
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

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S ONTARIO HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY



Recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards



The Maltese-Canadian Museum Group of Volunteers

*Photos courtesy of Dahlia Katz
See also pages 17-18.*