



# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 73

JUNE 2025

## CELEBRATING TORONTO'S DOORS OPEN AT THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM ON THE WEEKEND OF MAY 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>



See pages 17-21.  
*Photo courtesy of Joan Cabonaro*

## The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 73

June 2025

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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

It gives me a good deal of pleasure, as I'm sure it does the readership, to "see" all the activities which take place each month within the various Maltese organizations and associations throughout North America.

Two events in May which I found of particular interest and which highlight the preservation of Malta's heritage in North America were the Maltese-Canadian Museum's participation in Toronto's Doors Open (see pages 1, 17-21) and the students from Brightwood Elementary School in Washington, DC, performing the play based on David Walliams' *Golden Bee Adventure* and showing their paintings of scenes in Malta and their wooden models of *luzzijiet* at the Maltese Embassy (see pages 13-14, 32).

Three items in this newsletter relate to the Maltese diaspora in general, including a press release from Europeans Throughout the World noting that Dr. Raymond C. Xerri of Gozo has been elected for a second time as its president. Dr. Xerri was born in New York City, and served at Council General of the Republic of Malta in Toronto.

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."

From time to time, I'm asked what the circulation of this e-newsletter is. All I can say is that I send it out to over 1,000 email addresses each month. If you are one of the many who email or print off copies of this free e-newsletter to family and friends, and I would encourage you to do so, I'd like to hear from you.

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

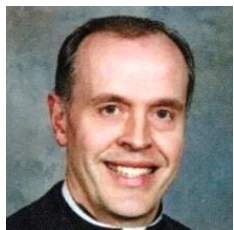
use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

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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 May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>

This pastor's corner reflects on the Ascension of Jesus and explains why it's important. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to many people—including His disciples and over 500 others. For 40 days, He taught them about God's kingdom. Then, He took His disciples to a mountain near Jerusalem called the Mount of Olives or Mount Olivet. There, He told them that soon they would receive the Holy Spirit, which would help them spread His message. After blessing them, Jesus began to rise into the sky right in front of them! As they watched, a cloud covered Him, and He was gone. At that moment, two angels appeared and told the disciples that Jesus would one day return the same way He had left.

The Ascension—which means Jesus going up to heaven—has deep meaning because

1. Jesus' work on earth was complete – God had sent Him to teach, heal, and save people. Now that He had finished His mission, He was returning to God the Father.

□ Example: Like a student who finishes school and goes home after graduation, Jesus had completed His time on earth and was returning to heaven.

2. Jesus succeeded in His mission – Everything He had come to do—dying for people's sins and rising from the dead—was accomplished.
 

□ Example: Imagine a firefighter rescuing someone from a burning building. Once the person is safe, the firefighter leaves because the job is done. Jesus had "rescued" people spiritually, so His time on earth was complete.
3. Jesus returned to His heavenly glory – While He was on earth, Jesus didn't always show His full power and greatness. But now, He was going back to His place of honor in heaven.

□ Example: It's like a king who dresses like an ordinary person to help his people, but when he goes back to his palace, he wears his royal clothes again.

4. Jesus was honored by God – Since Jesus had done everything perfectly, God lifted Him up and gave Him the highest honour.

□ Example: Like an athlete winning a gold medal after a great performance, Jesus was given the greatest reward for completing His mission.

5. Jesus went ahead to prepare a place for His followers – In heaven, Jesus is preparing a home for those who follow Him.

□ Example: It's like a family moving to a new house, where the parents go first to set everything up before the children arrive.

6. Jesus became the High Priest and Mediator – He now stands between God and people, making it possible for people to have a relationship with God.

□ Example: Think of a lawyer who helps people talk to a judge in court. Jesus helps people connect with God.

7. Jesus' ascension shows how He will return – The angels said that one day, Jesus will come back in the same way He left—visibly and in the sky.

□ Example: Imagine a superhero flying away after saving the city, but promising to return when needed. Jesus left, but He will return to complete His mission.

Right now, Jesus is in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God, a place of honor and power. He is the leader of the Church and gives spiritual gifts to His followers to help them continue His work.

### Parish Bulletin for June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

#### Reflection for Families

The connection of trinity is seen in the relationships of our families. Often the Holy Trinity is referred to as love, truth and peace. God the Father loves us. Through his Son, Jesus, God's love is revealed. The peace of the Holy Spirit remains with us as a guide in our faith. Our families are also built on these three values: love, truth and peace. Consider your own family to see where these qualities are noticeable.

#### Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

We've all seen through a clover leaf how one item can have three parts. It's a way that visually helps describe the concept of the Trinity. Look for ways that the Trinity can be seen in you own family. Where is love exemplified? How is the truth made known? What brings about peace?



## THE MALTA BAND PERFORMS AT THE VILLAGE OF HUMBER RETIREMENT HOME

### Malta Band Club

On Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the Malta Band had an opportunity of perform at the Village of Humber Heights Retirement Home in Etobicoke within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) under the direction of our conductor, Maestro Nick Arrigo.



Maestro Nick Arrigo





## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

### CALIFORNIA

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

A **Father's Day Brunch** was held on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **Members' Annual Picnic** will take place on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### MICHIGAN

#### Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

The **Annual General Meeting** took place on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

A **Rabbit Stew Dinner** to be held on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

A **Steak & Hamburger Barbeque** is planned for 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

**First Friday Mass** with Fr. Joe, was celebrated on the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup>. The menu this evening consisted of baked rice, baked macaroni, fish soup, fish dinners, ravioli and fresh hot baked pastizzi.

**Mexican Food**, featuring a full taco bar, was served on Friday night, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Other menu items were fish and chips, ravioli and fresh hot baked pastizzi.

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Maltese Center NYC

A **Majjalata and L-Imnarja BBQ** was held on the evening of Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. (See page 29.)

### ONTARIO

#### Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

**Mr. Mario Buttigieg** is the new consul general having succeeded **Ms. Ruth Farrugia**.

#### Malta Band Club

The **Malta Band** performed at the **Village of Humber Retirement Home** on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. (See page 4.)

A **Club Luncheon** took place on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dinner** on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> consisted of roasted chicken with fries and coleslaw.

The **Car Show & Shine**, scheduled for Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled owing to the weather forecast.

The Club's **54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance** was held on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and featured the **Malta Band**. (See pages 24-25.)

A **Charity Texas Hold'em Poker Night** took place on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The featured dinner was chicken wings, french fries and coleslaw. The proceeds from the night are intended to support the **Imnarja – Maltafest 2025 Festival**.

The first **Car Show & Shine** of the season is being held on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The **Saint George Dinner & Dance** will take place on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**The Malta Band Club Incorporated**  
will present the



**Festa San George**  
**Dinner & Dance**



**Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00PM**  
(5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga)

**The Malta Band will open the festivities with marches for this special occasion.**

**The evening's menu will consist of ftira biz zejt followed by a rabbit dinner served with French fries. Dessert, coffee and tea will also be served.**

**PRICE: Members \$40.00 per person**  
**Non-Members \$50.00 per person**

**Cash bar and DJ playing all your favorite tunes for your dancing pleasure.**



For additional information or reservations, please contact Tony at (365) 288-2177, Virginia at (416) 873-6013 or the club directly at (905) 890-8507.

A **BBQ** is planned for Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

The **Semi-Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Maltese Canadian Cultural Association

**Malta Fest Imnarja** took place at **Runnymede Park** in Toronto on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MALTA FEST**  
**\*IMNARJA\***

**SATURDAY JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**RUNNYMEDE PARK, TORONTO**

**KIDS ZONE:**  
INFLATABLES  
FACE PAINTING  
BALLOON ARTIST

**FOOD:**  
BEER GARDEN  
VENDORS & MUCH MORE

**LIVE MUSIC:**  
DJ MALTESE  
SUSAN ATTARD  
GROOVE DEFINITION

STILL ROCK N' ROLL: A TRIBUTE TO BILLY JOEL

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



### **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.

### **Maltese-Canadian Museum**

Along with 150 other organizations, the Museum took part in **Doors Open-Toronto** on the weekend of May 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. A variety of events took place at the Museum throughout the weekend. (See pages 1, 17-21.)

### **Melita Soccer Club, Inc.**

A **Fallsview Casino Bus Trip** took place on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The **Imnarja Picnic** was held on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, with the **Imnarja Dinner Dance** to be held on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

A **Casino Rama Bus Trip** is planned for Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

The **High Commissioner of Malta to Canada, His Excellency Mark Pace**, attended 10:30 a.m. **Mass** at **St. Paul's Church** on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

A **Bus Trip** took place to **St. Paul's Basilica** and the **St. Lawrence Market** in Toronto on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

The **Farewell Reception** for **Fr. Roy Farrell** was held on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> in the **Lower Hall** following the 10:30 a.m. **Mass** was celebrated by **Fr. Jimmy Zammit**. Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> will be Fr. Roy's last day as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish.

### **Hamilton**

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

This year's **Picnic** is being held in **Hidden Valley Park, Aldershot** on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# 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**



**London**

The **May Luncheon** took place at the **Boston Pizza Restaurant**, Wellington Road South, in London on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. (See pages 11-12.)

Our **June Luncheon** was held at the **St. Thomas Steakhouse** in **St. Thomas** on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our **Annual Maltese Group Picnic** will take place at **Springbank Park** in London on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Club hosted a **Ravioli Dinner** on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb** addressed the **Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group** on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. (See page 8.)

The **Government of Malta** had a **Stand** at the **EU Day Celebrations in Washington, DC**, on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. (See page 9.)

On Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, **Ambassador Xuereb** addressed the **Second Annual Congressional Briefing on "Diplomacy and Global Leadership: Strengthening Security and Cooperation in a Changing World."** (See page 10.)

The **Embassy** commemorated **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia** on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. (See page 12.)

On Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the **Embassy** hosted pupils and their teacher from **Brightwood Elementary School**. (See pages 13-14, 32)

**READER COMMENTS**

Again, a beautiful newsletter. Thank you. I especially enjoyed the article of Tony Pons. I got to know Tony when he visited the Dearborn Club on Friday nights. I enjoyed sitting and listening to his stories. He would talk about his wife the dancer, his sister in Malta and him being a tailor. Even in his 90s his mind was still very sharp.

Again, thank you.

Rena Xuereb, Michigan

Thank you for the newsletter! How nice of you to mention Nancy and me in your comments! It was also a treat to see the photograph of Dad with Tony Pons.

Gary Cauchi, California

Once again thank you for all your hard work and the excellent resource that you continue to produce which promotes the work of the Embassy and the diaspora.

Ambassador Godfrey Carmel Xuereb, Washington, DC

Thank you so much for your "May" newsletter. As usual, I enjoyed reading most of the articles, and forwarded it to most of my friends.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work!

Carmel Galea, Ontario

On Monday, June 9, 2025 Ms. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Union, spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations, an American think tank, headquartered in New York City and focused on U.S. foreign policy and international relations.



## BUS TRIP FROM MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON TO MALTA BAND CLUB IN MISSISSAUGA, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011

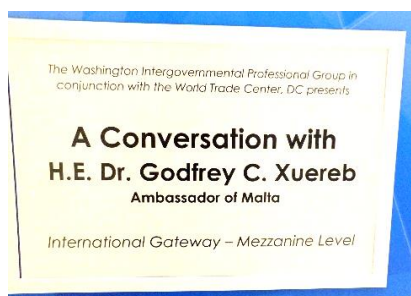
Dan Brock



## AMBASSADOR XUEREB ADDRESSES THE WASHINGTON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROFESSIONAL GROUP

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

On Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, at the invitation of the Washington Intergovernmental Professional Group (WIPG), Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb addressed business leaders, as well as Congressional and Federal Agency staff members at a Professional Networking Reception to promote business and investment opportunities in Malta





## MALTA STAND AT THE EU DAY CELEBRATIONS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Embassy of Malta  
to the United States of America

You know it was a great [#EuropeDay](#) when over 3,000 people came to celebrate on Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May! Indeed, this [#EUOpenHouse](#) was a magical day for people of all ages and backgrounds. Thanks for engaging with us and the 20+ embassies who brought their cultures to you.





## SECOND ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

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

On Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, in a rare and powerful display of multilateral diplomacy, ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps and international protocol consultants representing 42 nations convened on Capitol Hill for the Second Annual Congressional Briefing on “Diplomacy and Global Leadership: Strengthening Security and Cooperation in a Changing World.” The event, hosted at the Rayburn House Office Building by the US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights in collaboration with the International Defenders Council, brought together an assembly of global leaders in a forum focused on advancing peace, diplomatic strategy, and international collaboration. Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb was invited to deliver diplomatic remarks on behalf of the Embassy of Malta to the US 🇲🇹🇺🇸🇦🇪🇩🇪🇪🇬🇵🇸🇯🇲





## LUNCH AT BOSTON PIZZA

**Dan Brock**

The locale was Boston Pizza on Wellington Road South in London, on the afternoon of Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the London and area group's monthly luncheon.

Owing to a number of factors, the numbers were lower than usual, but that did not stop anyone from having an enjoyable couple of hours over a good meal.

Thanks go to Ted Gauci for making the arrangements this month.



**Janice Vella, Loretta Brock and Ted Gauci**



**Charles and Janice Vella**

Photos courtesy of Charles Vella and Miriam McLean



**Charles Micallef and Ted Gryn**



**Joe Borg, Gena Gryn and Rose Micallef**

Our next luncheon, will be held at the St. Thomas Roadhouse on Talbot Street in St. Thomas on Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.





Ron &amp; Miriam McLean and Gerry Borg



Jim McDonald and Ron &amp; Miriam McLean



## COMMEMORATING MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

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

Saturday, the 17th of May marked the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia. The Embassy of Malta hoisted the flag to commemorate this important day 🏳️🌈



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello Dan and many thanks for acknowledging my message regarding the KOMR association. I certainly do understand your position regarding publication of my article. The reason why I forwarded to you, was primarily to inform Maltese now living in North America and who may have in their younger years, served in the **Kings Own Malta Regiment** as regular soldiers. Many are the families, who have lost their son, father or husband during the war years, whilst performing their regimental duties in air-raids over the Maltese islands.

In the Fifties as the war was ended, the Maltese islands were undergoing a transition period when many local residents emigrated and went in search of a better life away from our shores. They would definitely recall the episodes from their past lives here in Malta / Gozo.

You have mentioned the national Archives and I am pleased to report, that for those Maltese who reside in Canada and in the United States and who sometimes come visiting their homeland, all the past KOMR records & photo albums, have been transferred to the **National Archives of Malta** situated at: Hospital Street Rabat, Malta (e-mail: [customercare.archives@gov.mt](mailto:customercare.archives@gov.mt)).

Once again, I thank you for your friendship and I send my best regards.

Sincerely  
George Stagno Navarra



*Editor's note: See pages 21-23 for George's article.*



## HOSTING STUDENTS FROM BRIGHTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

On Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb, Dr. Kay Xuereb and the Malta Team hosted students from Brightwood Elementary School found in Washington, D.C. Brightwood is the school twinned with the Embassy for the Embassy Adoption Program.



The students prepared an excellent play about Malta based on the tale as told by Mr. David Walliams in his book called the *Golden Bee Adventure*.







The students also prepared some beautiful artistic creations and wooden luzzu models which were presented to the Ambassador after the play.



We would like to thank the students from Brightwood Elementary School and Mrs. Elizabeth Nollm, their fifth grade ELA (English language arts) teacher, for their dedication and keen interest on Malta 🇲🇹

(See also page 32.)



## ANNIVERSARY DANCE

### Malta Band Club

The Malta Band Club of Mississauga, Ontario held its 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance on, Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Among the guests of honour were the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta to Canada and the Consul General of Malta in Toronto.

#### Welcome to the Malta Band Club!



High Commissioner of the Republic  
of Malta to Canada  
**Mark A. Pace**



Consul General of Malta in Toronto  
**Mario Buttigieg**



**H.E. Mark A. Pace, Mr. Mario Buttigieg  
and Club Secretary Jacqueline Sant**





The Malta Band was featured on this occasion.



**Maestro Nick Arrigo**



*Photos courtesy of Sam Borg*



## THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM WELCOMES VISITORS DURING DOORS OPEN TORONTO 2025

**Joan Carbonaro**

On May 24th and 25th, the Maltese-Canadian Museum proudly participated in *Doors Open Toronto 2025*, an annual celebration of the City's rich architectural, historical and cultural heritage. The event offered free access to over 150 significant sites across Toronto, and the Museum was honored to be among them.



Located within the historic St. Paul the Apostle complex—built in 1955 through the dedication of Toronto's Maltese community—the Museum offers a captivating look into the Maltese-Canadian experience.



**Richard Cumbo, Marthese Fenech, Mary Agius, Carmen Galea, Debbie Lightfoot & Mani Mifsud**

Visitors explored engaging exhibits that highlighted the community's contributions, traditions, and stories that continue to enrich the diverse fabric of our city.



**Joan Carbonaro and Kristen Mizzi,  
Museum Digital Hub volunteers**



**Christine Yamada had an exciting surprise  
when she spotted her mother,  
Giovanna (Janette) Said  
representing the Island of Malta on the  
Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto float  
in the 1940 Labour Day Parade**



Throughout the weekend, guests enjoyed a vibrant lineup of cultural programming. Highlights included demonstrations of traditional Gozo lacemaking, intricate beadwork, and handcrafted wooden windmills.



**Traditional Gozo lace makers**



**Florentina Giuliano, Gozo lace maker**



**Mani Mifsud,  
wirework and beadwork presentation**



**Josette Haber beadwork presentation**



**Martin Haber, model windmill maker**



The atmosphere was further enlivened by live performances, featuring a Flamenco guitarist, a violin duet, and captivating vocalists SueAnn Ellis and Susan Attard with Lino Debono at the piano.



**Roger Scannura, Flamenco guitarist**



**Ivy Spalding and daughter Kennedy, violin duet**



The museum saw a steady stream of enthusiastic visitors from across Toronto and beyond. Many expressed a keen interest in learning about Malta's heritage, while members of the Maltese community shared heartfelt family stories with our dedicated volunteers.



**Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Mario Buttigieg (left) with Mani Mifsud, Museum Volunteer**



**Doors Open Toronto volunteers Donna, Jayeeta and Linda**





**Mary Ann Piscopo, from the Melita Soccer Club, in her Maltese folklore attire**







While the museum is not open daily, it warmly welcomes guests by appointment. Our passionate volunteers are happy to offer free tours tailored to your schedule. To book a visit, simply call St. Paul the Apostle Church at (416) 767-7054.

We invite you to join our Facebook page to stay informed about upcoming events and exhibits. The Maltese-Canadian Museum looks forward to welcoming you with big smiles and even bigger stories!



### THE WINDING UP OF THE KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

George Stagno Navarra

As reported in the *Times of Malta* when the King's Own Malta Regiment (KOMR) (territorials) was disbanded in 1972, all contact with the Regiment's former members had ceased. After that date, a few ex-members resuscitated a KOMR association, with the principal aim of extending a helping hand to all those who had served in the Regiment when in need and following their death by assisting the surviving spouse or next of kin.



It was felt by the Committee, there could be many more ex-members of the Regiment who had served in war or in peace, who were still alive but remained unknown to a resuscitated association. Hence, it became the wish of a newly-formed committee to complete the association's records. From time to time, the Association organised entertainment functions and get-together events, to maintain the bond of friendship among the former members. A special appeal was made by the Committee, to all those who had served in the regiment, for them to write and give their personal details, rank and regimental number, so that the Association's existing records could be updated.

In the years that followed, many members dedicated some of their time and served in council of administration of **the KING'S OWN MALTA REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (KOMRA)**. With great pride and glory, each year the Regiment continued to take part in functions, commemorating the war years, for those who had died during their course of duty.

The KOMR Association erected a monument on land specifically earmarked for such a good cause, nearest to the war memorial obelisk at Floriana.



Wreaths are laid every year at the foot of this monument and special prayers offered for those who served in the KOMR.

The Salesian Boys brigade who remained quite close to the KOMRA, felt proud to make a guard of honour during such ceremony.



**The laying of the wreath  
by George Stango Navarra, November 2024**



**George Stagno Navarra saluting**

Unfortunately, time keeps marching on and many of the association members have died, some have become too old to attend to functions and some have retired to a home for the aged and suffer from dementia or some other old age ailments.



The year 2025, brings a sad ending to The Kings Own Malta Regiment Association. With a heavy heart and after great consideration to the situation, the last serving committee decided to call it a day and do a winding up.

There is an old English phrase which says "***all the good things come to an end.***"

Without any shadow of doubt, the winding up of the KOMR Association, leaves a great void in our hearts. However, I repeat what the chairman had to say...that we have all now advanced in age and therefore a decision is taken for winding up and distributing the remaining funds, to institutions that have been identified, and would best merit the assistance from a much-loved association. Four non-profit organisations have been chosen to receive such financial help from our association. These are St. Patrick's, Salesian Brigade, Puttinu Cares and *Dar tal-Providenza*.

During the war, our association veterans defended with their life, the rights and lives of our families. Now from the remaining funds at winding up, we augur that our donations will be put to better use for the good of many persons in need of help and assistance.

Although the Association has now been wound up, it still intends to keep in touch via its Facebook Page. However, because it can no longer use the word "*association*", it shall convey its messages via its "*mass-e-mailing-system*" as the **"Ex-Comrades of the King's Own Malta Regiment"**

May the name K.O.M.R., remain embedded in our hearts to the end of our day.



## RECOGNITION OF A MALTESE OFFICER'S TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES

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

In May Lieutenant Luke Formosa completed the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course (EBOLC) in the United States, a demanding 20-week program designed to equip newly commissioned Engineer Officers with essential technical and tactical expertise in both combat and general engineering disciplines.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lt Formosa for his outstanding performance, having been awarded the International Distinguished Honour Graduate title 🏆 in recognition of his achievement as the highest-scoring international officer among his peers. 🌍🇺🇸🇲🇹

## REMEMBERING THE SS *OHIO*

**Dan Brock**

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Roberta Metsola, a member of Malta's Nationalist Party (PN) and the European People's Party (EPP), as President of the European Parliament, was at the University of Dayton, Ohio, to mark 30 years since the signing of the Dayton Accords at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, bringing peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. While at the University, Ms. Metsola expressed what the SS *Ohio* meant for Malta, during the worse days of Second World War for that beleaguered colony, namely hope, freedom and resilience.



**Roberta Metsola**  
President of the European Union

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It was 6:00 a.m. on the feast of Santa Maria, August 15, 1943. With the destroyer *Penn* coupled on the starboard side and the destroyer *Bramham* on the port side and the arrival of Maltese tugs the heavily damaged tanker *Ohio* was brought into the entrance of the Grand Harbour past the British-laid minefield near Zonqor Point.

On the ramparts above the wreck-strewn harbour, on the Barrakka, Fort Saint Angelo and Senglea, great crowds of Maltese men and women waved and cheered and a brass band on the end of the mole was giving a spirited rendition of "Rule Britannia." The *Ohio's* captain, Dudley William Mason, standing at the salute on the damaged bridge of the *Ohio*, had no time to reflect on the arrival at the harbour, as the creaking plates indicated the ship was still at risk of sinking in the Grand Harbour.



### **SS *Ohio* limping into the Grand Harbour**

Photograph taken by Lieut. H.E. Cook H E, War Office official photographer. This photograph GM 1480 comes from the collections of the Imperial War Museums., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2270168>

On docking, pipes were now hauled aboard and emergency salvage pumps began to discharge the kerosene. At the same time, a fleet auxiliary, RFA *Boxol*, began to pump the 10,000 tons of fuel oil into her own tanks. As the oil flowed out, *Ohio* sank lower and lower in the water. The last drops of oil left her and simultaneously her keel settled on the bottom where it ultimately broke in two.



### **SS *Ohio* discharging her cargo in the Grand Harbour**

Photograph taken by Lieut. J.E. Russell, Royal Navy official photographer - Imperial War Museum, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/-index.php?curid=2270150>.





PRESS RELEASE - 056/2025

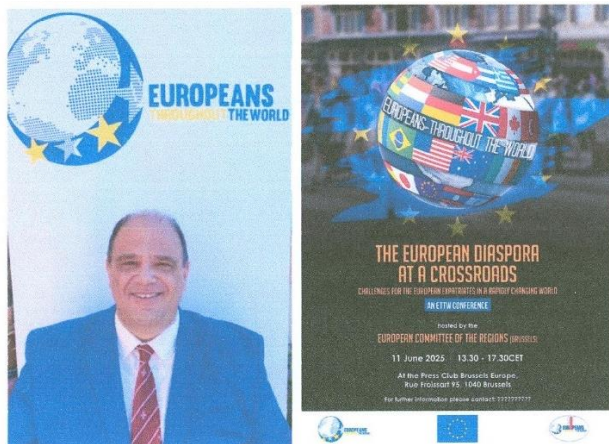
EN - Version

## One of Europe's largest NGOs - Europeans Throughout The World (E.T.T.W.) has elected a new president from the tiny Mediterranean island of Gozo, Malta

Chev. Dr. Raymond C. XERRI, K.H.S., Ph.D.(Australia), M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta), D.D.S., E.U.Sch(E.U.Law)(F.R.G.), B.A.(Hons.)(U.S.A.), the only doctoral graduate and expert in Maltese Diaspora from the islands of Gozo, Malta has just been unanimously elected as the next President of E.T.T.W. (2025-2029) by the General Assembly of European Diaspora organizations and individual expert-members.

Elected for the second time as president, Chev. Dr. Xerri previously served in the same position between 2016 and 2019 leaving a good mark on E.T.T.W. after rising up the ranks as one of the five vice-presidents between 2013-2016 representing the *Council of the Maltese Living Abroad*<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Act XX (Chapter 515 of the Laws of Malta) of 2012.



Europeans Throughout The World is a federation of European Diaspora organizations and individual expert-members from different countries of Europe. E.T.T.W. speaks out for more than 60 million European citizens who live in a country that is not their own and 17 million of them live in one of the countries of the 27 EU Member States. By extension, the 480 million people of European descent living throughout the globe are also considered in the formulation of E.T.T.W.'s policy and actions.

E.T.T.W.'s three main pillars are:-

- Ensure democratic rights for all European expatriates, particularly the right to vote and the right to be represented in national parliaments;
- Work hard towards equality of treatment for all European expats and diasporas with nationals of countries of origin and of countries of destination;
- Strive to improve assistance to European expats, with special attention given to consular protection, recognition of diplomas, social security, pension and native language training.

In more detail, E.T.T.W. aims at:-

- To promote the development of international cooperation between associations of European expatriates and individual expatriates, whether they reside in a Member member country or in a third country;
- To act towards all authorities concerned as the spokesperson and defender of the European expatriates it represents, for the safeguard of their rights;
- To collect information on the activities of these associations and on all organizations, institutions, foundations, official and private services concerned with the temporary or permanent presence abroad of European expatriates;
- To encourage the creation of associations having similar goals in the countries where they do not yet exist, as well as European circles in third countries, which bring together European expatriates of different nationalities;
- To make its information accessible to all and to ensure its dissemination;
- To carry out studies and issue publications on issues common to the association of European expatriates; from these proposals, to establish and implement a programme of joint actions;
- To facilitate the mutual relations between existing associations, or those to be created;
- To promote the study and knowledge of the rights and duties of European expatriates; and,
- To act in accordance with the principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The seat of this international non-profit association (AISBL) is in Fondation Universitaire, 11 rue d'Egmont, Brussels B1050, Brussels judicial district and its identification number is 872/84

To mark that end of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, an International Conference entitled, *The European Diaspora at a Crossroads - Challenges for the European Expatriates in a rapidly changing World*, is to be organised on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 13:30hrs to 17:30CET held at the Press Club Brussels Europe, Rue Froissart 95, 1040 Brussels.

To participate in the ETTW Conference and registration process fill the following form in <https://forms.gle/i1RES9A2NZILNHRt5> or please contact Daria Pirvu on: [ettw.euromonde@gmail.com](mailto:ettw.euromonde@gmail.com)

For further information or interviews please contact, President, Chev. Dr. Raymond C. Xerri and can be contacted on +356 99427644 and/or on [raymond.c.xerri@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.c.xerri@gmail.com)

Brussels, Belgium  
Sunday, June 1, 2025

EUROPEAN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Fondation Universitaire, 11 rue d'Egmont, Brussels B-1050, Belgique  
[ettw.euromonde@gmail.com](mailto:ettw.euromonde@gmail.com) ★ <http://eurmonde.eu> ★ AISBL - 872/84



## DIRECTOR FOR MIGRANTS COMMISSION

***“Although lately we have been assisting mostly immigrants who come to Malta, we have not abandoned our original vocation of keeping contact with Maltese emigrants who have settled in many other countries but still consider themselves to be Maltese”. Our Journal links with Migrants Commission***

At the beginning of April Archbishop Charles Scicluna has appointed Deacon Jesmond Schembri as the new Director of the Migrants Commission, succeeding Fr Anton D’Amato, who served in this role for nearly five years.



For the past 75 years, the Migrants Commission has been dedicated to supporting Maltese emigrants and their families and immigrants who have arrived in Malta seeking refuge or employment. Among its key initiatives, the Commission assists migrants to help them live with dignity and facilitates their integration into Maltese society.

Jesmond Schembri holds a degree in Social Work from the Universities of Malta and Hull in the United Kingdom, and pursued Theology studies at the University of Malta’s Faculty of Theology. He was ordained a deacon of the Greek Catholic Church in May 2023 and is married. With extensive experience in social work, particularly in the field of addictions, he has also contributed to the development of social policy and worked in data protection. He joined the Migrants Commission in October 2023.

Deacon Jesmond Schembri said that when it was shared in the media that he would become the Deacon for the Greek Catholic Church, there were people who told him that he is having the “best of both worlds” due to the fact that he is a married man, father of two children, and grandfather of two grandchildren, as well as a deacon.

Rev. Schembri spent his life working for social causes through Fondazzjoni Sedqa, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), as well as various ministries. He was described by presenter Professor Andrew Azzopardi as someone who “kept his spirituality during the course of his life”.

The deacon explained how the Commission began as part of Azzjoni Kattolika. Through the work of the late Mgr. Philip Calleja, he began to contribute to this commission when he was still a seminarian. It addressed various questions of a social and spiritual nature for various Maltese people who left the country to look for a better future elsewhere. He mentioned how the initial work of the Commission was about Maltese emigrants, Mgr. Ġużeppi De Piro – founder of the Missionary Society of St. Paul – would send Maltese priests from the society to accompany these Maltese.

In 1971, Dar l-Emigrant was built Castille Square where it remains today. After one year, Malta had its first modern refugees from Uganda. This was the first time that people arrived in Malta with the status of refugee under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In 1987, Charles Buttigieg became Malta’s first representative to the UNHCR and had the power grant protections to refugees. He also became the first Commissioner for Refugees.

In 2021, Dun Anton D’Amato continued the work of the commission, taking over from Mgr. Alfred Vella and Mgr. Philip Calleja. He made various changes including changing the commission’s name to the Migrants Commission so as to cover both immigrants and emigrants.

**newsbook.com.mt**





## MALTESE LIVING ABROAD MALTA IN THE WORLD

### USEFUL INFORMATION

## Composition of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by Act XX of 2011 and began functioning in 2012, when the first Council was appointed. The Council is headed by the Minister responsible for Foreign Affairs as Chairperson, together with 15 members and a secretary.

All members must be of Maltese nationality. In the case of five of them, they may reside both in Malta and outside Malta. They must have special knowledge and experience of the needs and interests of Maltese living outside Malta.

They must also work or have worked in non-governmental organisations and whose main objective is to promote the well-being of Maltese living outside Malta.

The other ten members are chosen from among Maltese nationals who are members of Maltese communities living outside Malta, and are distributed as follows:

- Two members from the State of Victoria in the Commonwealth of Australia;
- Two members from the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia; Two members from the United States of America;
- One member from the United Kingdom;
- One member from another state in the Commonwealth of Australia (other than Victoria and New South Wales);
- One member from a Member State of the European Union (other than Malta); and
- One member from Canada.

The appointment of the members is made by the Prime Minister. In the case of the first five members, this is made after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The appointment is for three years but may be renewed for a further three years after the end of the first term of appointment.

The number of Council members is expected to increase to be more representative of Maltese residing abroad, when the Act as amended and approved by the Parliament (ACT No. XXIV of 2024) comes into force.

#### **The current Council is composed as follows:**

**Ms Judith Buhagiar and Ms Amie Cardona** from the State of Victoria from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Ms Miriam Friggieri and Dr. Antoine Mangion** from the State of New South Wales from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Ms Alexandra Micallef** from another state from the Commonwealth of Australia; **Prof. Sandro Galea and Ms Mona Nicholas** from the United States of America; **Ms Sarah Meli from Canada; Dr. Edgar Brincat from the United Kingdom; and Ms Alison Micallef from the European Union.** The other five members are: **Comm. Major James N. Casha; Mr Luke Incorvaja; Dr. Loredana Gatt; Ms. Giselle Sherri-Migliore; Mr. Antoine Scicluna.**

For more information one can access: <https://malteselivingabroad.gov.mt/council-for-maltese-living-abroad/>

**JOSEPH A. XERRI SECRETARY**



## THE LAUNCHING OF THE MALTA CULTURAL ANNUAL

**Dan Brock**

On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> of this year the first edition of the *Malta Cultural Annual* was launched at the Malta Society of Arts on Republic Street in Valletta.



Among those in attendance at this launching was Niġel Klemenčič-Puglisevich who contributed the article "Reading Between the Lines: A New Perspective on an Islamic Tombstone in Malta". While an undergraduate student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada one of his minors was Islamic Studies.

His current research interests are mostly related to Roman archaeology, particularly ceramics; medieval Islamic archaeology; and colonial interactions with cultural heritage.

Niġel is no stranger to the pages of this newsletter. Hailing from Oshawa, Ontario, he is the grandson of Ed Puglisevich a native of Msida, Malta who came to Ontario where he married in 1965.

Niġel was the winner of the \$2,000 scholarship awarded for the 2020-21 scholastic year by *Leġen Malti*, which produces a half-hour weekly Maltese TV program out of Toronto, Ontario. The February 2021 issue of this newsletter contains Niġel's account of the Puglisevich family in Canada. His article "Preserving Maltese Memories: A New Collaboration to Digitise Our Heritage" appeared in the July 2024 issue.

Volunteers at the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto, Niġel and his wife Kealey Kennedy left Canada for Malta in April 2024 where the former became Curator of Roman Archaeology at Heritage Malta, and post he still holds and the latter obtained a position at the Inquisitors Palace in Birgu (Vittoriosa) for two seasons



**Francesco Fontanelli and  
Niġel Klemenčič-Puglisevich**  
Photos courtesy of Niġel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

Two articles, in this first issue of *Malta Cultural Annual* which might be of particular interest to the readership are John P. Portelli's "Three Maltese Intellectuals in Canada" and Mario Cassar's "Maltese Migrants in the United States and Australia: A Cognominal Perspective."



**MAJJALATA AND L-IMNARJA BBQ****Maltese Center NYC**

This year's sold out *Majjalata* and *L-Imnarja* barbeque was held on the evening of Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable event.





## 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](mailto:gozoclub@gmail.com)

### **Inanna on Stage**

[www.joannedancer.com](http://www.joannedancer.com)  
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1  
416-707-2355  
[desertdancer007@yahoo.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.saint-paul-Maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)  
President: Mary Vella

### **Lehen Malti**

<https://www.omnity.ca/shows/lehen-malti>  
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
Contact Person: Joe Sherri  
416-571-3944  
email [lehenmalti@hotmail.com](mailto:lehenmalti@hotmail.com)

### **Malta Band Club Mississauga**

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9  
905-890-850  
[www.maltabandclub.com](http://www.maltabandclub.com)  
[maltabandclub@bellnet.ca](mailto:maltabandclub@bellnet.ca)



### **Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4  
519-974-6719  
[maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)  
Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
(every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@themcca.ca)

**Maltese-Canadian Museum**

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex  
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054

**Maltese Canucks**

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,  
M6P 2A4  
416-909-7357/414-670-2662  
[carl@isgtransport.com/b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](mailto:carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com)

**Maltese Center, NYC**

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102  
718-728-9893  
[info@themaltesecenter.com](mailto: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](mailto:mmmpastizzi@gmail.com)

**Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area**

[maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:carmengalea4949@gmail.com)

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

[c/o leprofess@aol.com](mailto:c/o leprofess@aol.com)

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4  
416-763-5317  
[clubmelita@gmail.com](mailto:clubmelita@gmail.com)

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054  
[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186)  
[giovanvel@sympatico.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)  
President: Lino Debono



## STUDENTS FROM BRIGHTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PERFORM AT THE MALTESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC



Some of the beautiful artistic creations and wooden luzzu models prepared by the students



The children's teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Noll, far left

See also pages 13-14.