



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 74

JULY 2025

THE RUDDER OF THE SCHOONER *MALTA*, PIONEER PARK, BAYFIELD, ONTARIO



See pages 15-16 for story.

Photo courtesy of Melrose Paquet

The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 74

July 2025

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MALTA

The Times of Malta

EDITORIAL COMMENT

First of all, I'd like to introduce the readership to Mary Dimech Deguara of Mosta, Malta. Owing to the article which appeared in the July 8th issue of *The Times of Malta*—see page 28—Mary has offered to assist as one of the newsletters copy editors.

I'd like to thank Emma Borg for that fine write-up on myself and this e-newsletter and to Joseph Grech, sub-Editor (Features) of *The Times of Malta* for permitting me to reprint the article on page 28.

In this issue we have two first-time contributors of articles, namely Paulo Vella of São Paulo, Brasil and Bennie Blanco of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Paulo has written of the Vella family which came to Santos, Brasil in the 1920 (see pages 25-26) and Bennie has shared with us her connection with the *għażziela* tradition in *Żebbuġ, Gozo* (see page 9). Bennie also has an online "Personal Travel Guide" worth examining (see page 21) and she assisted me in the preparation of the article on the Sciberras brothers (see pages 18-21).

It was serendipitous when Melrose Paquet sent me the photo of the rudder of the *Malta*, a schooner which had run aground on the eastern shore of Lake Huron. It turns out that this vessel was built in St. Catharines, Ontario in the shipyard of one Louis Schickluna, Canada's first Maltese settler. (See pages 1, 15-16.)

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.

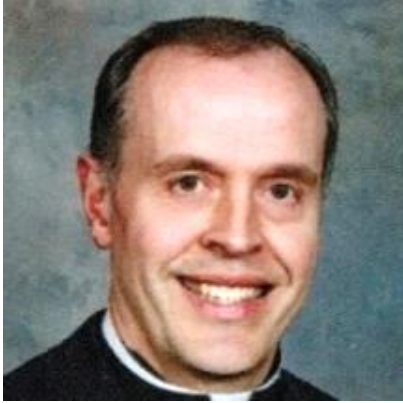
The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to make use of this e-newsletter.

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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, served as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, the only Maltese parish outside Malta worldwide until June 24, 2025.

Parish Bulletin for June 21st-22nd

Dear Beloved Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Church,

It is with both joy and sadness that I write this letter to you. These past two and a half years serving as your priest have been a tremendous blessing, and I will always cherish the moments we have shared in faith, fellowship, and prayer.

When I first arrived, I imagined I would be here for many years, continuing our journey together. Yet, as always, God's plans surpass our own. As you know, I have been called to serve at St. Augustine's Seminary, where I will provide spiritual direction to the seminarians. It is a daunting but deeply meaningful mission, and I humbly ask for your prayers—that more and more men will respond to God's call to the priesthood. Your prayers will sustain me in this new role, and I will be forever grateful for them.

Reflecting on my time here, I cannot help but smile at the many wonderful experiences and the warm embrace you have given me. It has been a joy learning about the Maltese culture, and though the language proved a challenge, my appreciation for your traditions and heritage remains profound. Thank you for your patience, your kindness, and your generosity of spirit.

In my humanness, I may have fallen short or inadvertently caused offense. If I have done so, I sincerely ask for your forgiveness. It was never my intention, and I deeply regret any misunderstandings.

As St. Paul the Apostle Church enters a new chapter, I wholeheartedly encourage you to extend the same love and hospitality to your new priest, Fr. James Bussanich. Just as you welcomed me, I know you will embrace and support him as he embarks on his own journey of ministry among you.

Although my daily presence among you will change, my heart remains in this parish. I look forward to visiting from time to time and hope that you will also visit me at the seminary. Our bond in faith remains unbroken, and I trust God will continue to guide us all in His wisdom and love.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers and know that you will remain in mine. May God bless you abundantly. With deepest gratitude and prayer,
Fr. Roy

From our Pastor...

Fr. James M. Bussanich, also a diocesan priest within the Archdiocese of Toronto, assumed the pastorate of St. Paul the Apostle Parish on June 24, 2025.

Parish Bulletin for June 28th-29th

Dear parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Parish:

How appropriate it is to begin my new assignment as your pastor, in a parish whose patron saint we honour today. Since my arrival as your new pastor this past Wednesday, I have been welcomed warmly by some of you and I greatly appreciate it. I'm sure there are mixed emotions for the parish, when one pastor moves on and another one comes in. This is true for the new pastor as well.

Being in Toronto is new for me. I have served in the archdiocese as a pastor in the east and north regions. It will be a bit of an adjustment for me living in Toronto and it will be one that I will embrace and adapt to with your help. I pray that my time here at St. Paul's will be fruitful for all of us.

May God bless you and St. Paul intercede for us.
- Fr. James M. Bussanich.

Western Europe Novena

This will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2025 at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit celebrating Italy and Malta.

Confessions will be heard at 5:30 p.m., followed by Mass celebrated at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Joe Mallia will be the homilist. A reading and the prayers of the faithful will be in Maltese. The choir will be from St. Michael the Archangel Church.

Maltese delicacies are to be served after Mass, compliments of the Executive Board of the Maltese American Benevolent Society of Detroit.

FATHER ROY'S PARTING WORDS

Editor's Note: Fr. Roy Farrell's role as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, ended on Tuesday, June 24th. His successor is Fr. James M. Bussnich.

As I prepare to leave the parish after spending two and a half deeply meaningful years among you, I find myself filled with gratitude and humility. This past Sunday's [June 22nd] farewell reception was a powerful reminder of the love, generosity, and faith-filled spirit that define this wonderful community.

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the celebration. Your presence meant so much to me and was a beautiful expression of our shared journey. The personal notes, kind words, and thoughtful gifts, many of you shared with me, especially moved me. Your generosity - both in spirit and in gesture—touched me deeply.

Serving this parish has been a blessing and a privilege. We have prayed together, laughed together, and supported one another in moments of joy and of sorrow. I have learned so much from you and will carry your kindness and examples of faith with me always.

As I begin my new assignment, I ask for your continued prayers. Know that you will remain in mine. I leave not with sadness, but with immense gratitude and hope, trusting that God will continue to guide us all on our separate paths.

Though I may no longer be physically present, I promise to stay in touch and hold you close in heart and spirit. May God bless each of you abundantly and may our paths cross again.

With affection and thanksgiving,
Fr. Roy



A farewell to Fr. Roy Farrell, Sunday, June 22nd
Courtesy of Godwin Darmanin

READER COMMENTS

I write to thank and show my greatest appreciation, for inserting an article in the newsletter for this month, regarding the KOMR association that has gone into disbandment. Your help in sending out a message to all ex- KOMR regimental members who are residing abroad is of great assistance in getting this announcement known by many. Nostalgic thoughts will bring back memories to them from their younger years.

George Stagno Navarra, Malta

Another excellent issue of "The Maltese Presence in North America"; your dedication and tireless efforts are phenomenal.

Richard Cumbo, Malta

Thanks as always for the initiative of sharing this with us and keeping us updated on how the Maltese heritage is being celebrated in North American countries.

Stephanie Schembri, Archives Officer,
National Archives of Malta

As always thank you for keeping me in copy with your Monthly Issues.

I always enjoy them.

Today [Thursday, June 24th] is Immigration Day in Brazil, so we did a bit of research at the Embassy to see what we could come up with.

I filed a Post on the JOHN AQUILINA Facebook Page which may interest you.

I am also attaching stories about two families, and relevant photos.

We have permission to use the photos for publication.

The Vella family actually migrated to Brazil via Canada.

Apparently, it was too cold for them in Canada, so they moved on.

Please let me know if you can do anything with this material.

If not, nothing lost. It's always nice to link up.

John J. Aquilina,

Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to Brazil
Editor's Note: I do intend to follow-up on these two families. Note the write-up on the Vella family on pages 12-13.

I love reading your newsletter! Cheers.

Valerie Buhagiar, Ontario

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

The **Members' Annual Picnic** took place on Sunday, July 20th.

The **Santa Maria Celebration** will be held on Saturday, August 9th.

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

The annual **L'Imnarja Picnic**, hosted by the Foundation, was held in the **Zwierlein Picnic Area, Huddart Park** in **Woodside** on Sunday, June 29th. (See pages 22-23.)

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

A **BBQ Fundraiser** took place on the evening of Saturday, July 12th with various raffles and prizes. (See page 13.)

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The **Maltese Picnic Bob Farr Tribute** will be held on Sunday, August 10th, at the **Kensington Metropark North Martindale Shelter**.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center NYC

A **Majjalata and L-Imnarja BBQ** was held on the evening of Saturday, June 14th. (See page 9.)

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Lehen Malti

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

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

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

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

Malta Band Club

The **St. George's Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, June 21st.

A **BBQ** took place on Saturday, July 12th.

The **Malta Band Club-Car Show & Shine** was held on Sunday, July 20th.

The **Semi-Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday, July 27th.

A **Festa San Gejtanu Dinner & Dance** is planned for Saturday, August 9th.

Malta Day will be celebrated on Saturday, August 23rd.

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

The **Imnarja Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, June 28th. (See page 11.)

A **Casino Rama Bus Trip** is planned for Saturday, July 26th.

A **Bus Trip** to Niagara Falls, Ontario will take place on Saturday, August 23rd.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A **Farewell Reception** for **Fr. Roy** was held in the **Lower Hall**, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, on Sunday June 22nd. (See page 4.)

A **Welcome Reception** for our new pastor, **Fr. James**, will be held on Sunday, July 27th at 11:30 a.m. in the **Lower Hall**.

Hamilton

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

This year's **Picnic** was held in **Hidden Valley Park, Aldershot** on Sunday, June 22nd. (See p. 6.)

London

Our **June Luncheon** took place at the **St. Thomas Roadhouse** in **St. Thomas** on Thursday, June 19th. (See pages 17-18.)

Our **Annual Maltese Group Picnic** was held at **Springbank Park** in **London** on Friday, July 4th. (See pages 25-26.)

Our next **Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, August 19th at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South in **London**.

Windsor**Malta United Society**

The Club hosted a **Ravioli Dinner** on Saturday, May 31st.

WASHINGTON, DC**Embassy of Malta**

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb joined other members of the Diplomatic Corps on Saturday, June 14th to celebrate the **250th Anniversary of the United States Army** and to commemorate **Flag Day**. (See page 10.)

Monday, June 30th saw the launching of the **Maltese Library** and Ms. Caroline Perry's **The Memory Cake**. (See page 24.)

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and Dr. Kay Xuereb attended the **Fourth of July celebrations** at the US Department of State. (See page 14.)

**OUR PICNIC IN HIDDEN VALLEY PARK****MCACH**

This year's Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH) picnic was held in Hidden Valley Park, along Grindstone Creek in Burlington's Aldershot community on Sunday, June 22nd.

A thank you to everyone who came out. It was a HOT day (Malta weather) but we had a great turnout!!



MADONNA TAL-GHAZZIELA

Bennie Blanco



The hilltop village of *Żebbuġ* in Gozo is famous for its lacework, beautiful parish church, and for bearing the brunt of some of Malta's harshest winter storms when they come about. The parish church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven in *Żebbuġ* holds magnificent sculptures made of locally sourced onyx. Locals have long practiced a tradition unique to the village to protect them from storms while also dedicating their work and prayers to the Madonna tal-Għażżiela.

Behold the *għażżiela* tradition, named of course after the Madonna tal-Għażżiela. This highly original tradition, which is primarily a devotion to the Madonna and also said to protect homes from the harshest of storms, sees locals producing small talismen from unleavened bread dough as early as July, in order to make enough for the entire town and then some.

According to legend, one night during a storm, a poor family that lived on the outskirts of the village had a dream that snakes of fire tried entering the home through the window. They didn't manage to get through because of a wheel-like talisman that lit up and blinded the snake. Legend has it that when the mother of the family told the parish priest about her dream, he ordered

all families to make the same wheels from a piece of dough. And the rest...well has continued through history and into the present.

Volunteers congregate for about five consecutive Sundays in order to make enough by the second Sunday of September which is when the *għażżiela* are given out, timed with the expected first post-summer rains. They are cut out into the shape of a spinning wheel, which was said to be the Madonna's craft, while also incorporating the letter 'M' since the town has a strong devotion towards the Virgin Mary. The talismen are then baked and stored in cardboard boxes.

When the big day arrives, the *għażżiela* are taken out of the boxes, the excess flour dusted off, and displayed in straw baskets on the church parvis. After Mass, the talismen are blessed and handed out to locals: adults receive two each while children receive one.

No one knows exactly when, how, or why this interesting tradition started but it's *Żebbuġ's* first parish priest's will (dating back to 1737) that shows he left a trust fund to the community in order to continue making the *għażżiela*.



The *għażżiela* shown here was gifted to me by Manuel Formosa in December of 2021. Manuel went out of his way to go to *Żebbuġ* at the right time to obtain one for me and I appreciate what he did very much because they are not sold in stores. This one is glued onto a black background in a shadow box.



VISITING ST. PAUL'S BASILICA

Dan Brock

On Thursday, June 5th, Fr. Roy Farrell and members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish went on a bus trip to St. Paul's Basilica and the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto.



Fr. Roy at the pulpit in St. Paul's Basilica



Photos courtesy of Godwin Darmanin

The basilica's architect was Joseph Connolly, the same person who drew up the plans for the present St. Peter's Basilica in London, Ontario. Many of the interior features of both basilicas are similar.

MAJJALATA AND L-IMNARJA BBQ**Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America**

Editor's note: These are additional photos to those which appeared in last month's issue

The Maltese Center NYC in Astoria held its annual Majjalata and I-Imnarja BBQ on the evening of Saturday June 14th, which turned out to be a great success. Consul General Denise Demicoli was amongst those present to attend this special yearly appointment. Well done to all the organisers.

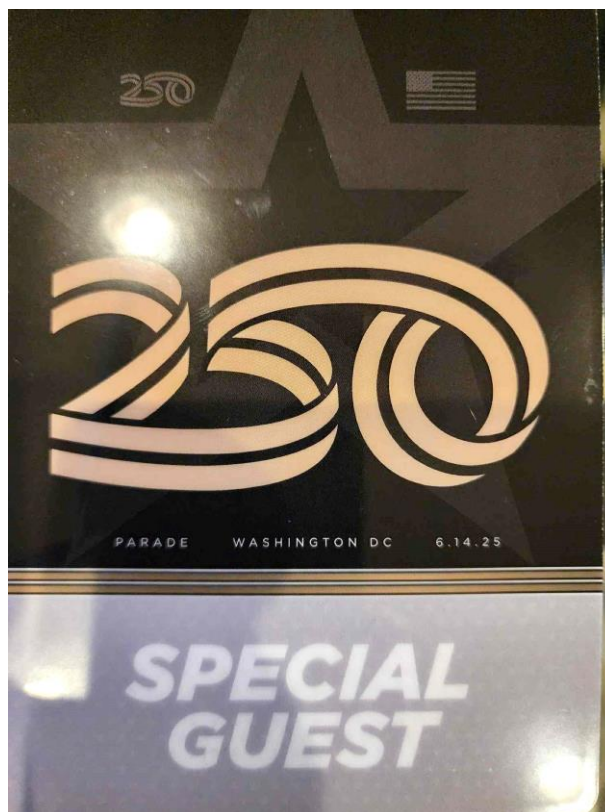


**Consul General Denise Demicoli (with mic)
Malta Center President Eddie Debono (in plaid shirt)**

**250th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
AND FLAG DAY**

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

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb joined other members of the Diplomatic Corps on Saturday, June 14th to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army and to commemorate Flag Day 🇺🇸🇺🇸



Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb on left

CELEBRATING IMNARJA AND CANADA DAY

Mary Ann Piscopo

Our Imnarja and Canada Day dinner party, held on Saturday, June 28th, was a success.



Delicious *ħobż biż-żejt* was made by Mary Tanti and delicious fenek stew on spaghetti by Tony "Laloj" Saliba. There was Italian rum cake for dessert.

Music was arranged by Pauline Zahra.



THE STORY OF THE VELLA FAMILY

Paulo Vella

Editor's Note: H.E. John J. Aquilina, Malta's ambassador to Brazil, reminded me that June 25th is Immigration Day in Brazil. In this connection, he sent me the accounts of two Maltese families, Spiteri and Vella, who settled in Brazil.

The Spiteri family was one of several who arrived in Brazil in 1912 by way of the coastal port city of Santos, São Paulo.

I've chosen to publish the account of the Vella brothers first as they had a North American encounter, albeit brief, before permanently settling in Brazil.

Some editing of Paulo Vella's account has been done for the reader's benefit.

In the heart of Valletta, on a charming corner between St. John and Merchants streets, my *bužnannu* Salvatore "Salv" Vella ran a bookshop — a haven of words and dreams. Driven by winds of hope and the harsh Maltese reality of the late 19th century, however, he set out, about 1899, in search of new horizons in Egypt, a land of opportunities and mysteries, under the same British rule that united Malta and North Africa.

The first stop was Alexandria, where bold *Bužnannu* rented a hotel that was eventually closed by the authorities. Undeterred, he started over, and this time, with his wife the former Mary Concetta "Ċetta" Felice (my *bužnanna*) and their five children — Gaetana, Maria, John, Ettore and Joseph — at his side. They now ran a new, first-class hotel, surprising even *Bužnannu* himself.

With the beginning of the new century, the family moved to Port Said, where the Grand Hotel de la Poste was founded.



Back of an envelope bearing an image of the Grand Hotel de la Poste



Closeup of the view on the back of the envelope

There, their son Oscar, who would later become the father of Peter and Antida, was born. Four of the nine Vella children were born in Egypt, growing up among guests and experiencing different languages and cultures.



The Vella family in Egypt about 1918

Back row: Maria, Joseph, Ettore, John (my grandad) and Gaetana

Middle: Bužnanna, baby Catherine, and Bužnannu

Front: Benjamin, Helen and Oscar

During the First World War, the hotel was requisitioned by the British government to house soldiers. Following the conflict, the family returned to Malta in 1922.

Three of Salv and Cetta's sons - John (my grandfather), Joseph and Ettore - decided to follow a different path. From Great Britain they travelled to Canada. But, not liking its cold winters, they finally found their home in Brazil.

With the experience inherited from their days in the hotel business, the brothers opened a café in the coastal city of Santos, some 340 km southwest of Rio de Janeiro in the State of São Paulo. There, they planted new roots.

My grandfather, known as John, but whose actual name was Gio Batta Vella, remarried in Santos, Brazil and had a son, Salvo Vella, my father. He, in turn, had three children, including me Paulo.

Alongside my cousins Peter and Antida Vella of Malta, Oscar's children, we tell this beautiful story of the Vella family, a legacy of courage, reinvention and affection that has crossed seas and generations.

The three youngest children of the above Salvo and Cetta Vella, Benjamin (b. 1910), Helen (b. 1913) and Catherine (b. 1917), all born in Port Said, Egypt, were issued passports on May 26, 1936 to travel on a pilgrimage to Rome. In 1936, they were living at 122 Strada Reale [Main Street] in Hamrun. It was noted that their father Salvo or Salvatore had been born in Malta on July 8, 1870.



John Vella's (my grandfather's) wedding in Santos, Brazil, during the 1930s, in the presence of his brothers, Joseph (left) and Ettore (right).



BBQ FUNDRAISER

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the BBQ on Saturday, July 12th. We had a very successful turnout and raised over \$1,300 from our raffles/auctions for the front facade update.

Congratulations to our BBQ auction & raffle winners and thank you to all our donors.

AUCTION WINNERS

- 1-Kelly Larson - Firestone Basket with oil change, windshield wiper change and basket of car products
- 2-Sam Zammit - 4 Tiger Tickets with parking

RAFFLE BASKET WINNERS

- 1-Lino Sammut - 2 beer mirrors with light up. Donor Premium Distributor & Michigan Beer Distributing
- 2-Harry Johnston - 2 LEGO basket. Donor anonymous

- 3-Carmen Nino - 3 Corktown Restaurant Hop Gift Card set to - Mercury Burger Bar, Grandma Bob's Handmade Pizza and Zo's Good Burger
- 4-Belda Garza - Detroit Tiger D Light Up; Donor anonymous
- 5-Tammie - \$50 UFO BAR & \$25 Nemo's plus t-shirt.
- 6-Eva Wieske - The Michigan Pedaler swag & \$100 off package plus \$25 Green Dot Stables, \$25 Batch Brewing Company
- 7-Joe Sultana - Irish Whiskey Basket from Nancy Whiskey's Detroit
- 8-Eva - \$100 2 Gruvi non alcoholic Bev, T-shirt, vegan gummies & after 8 thin mints. Donor Ima Izaakaya & Summerime

A special thank you goes to Bonnie Sparks for connecting with many of the neighboring businesses to get donations for our raffle; see you September 7th for our Annual Festa

ATTENDING THE FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

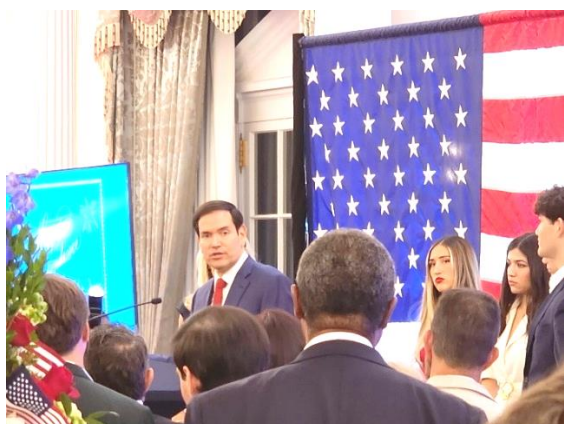
Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and Dr. Kay Xuereb were invited by the Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his wife to attend the 249th Independence Day 4th of July celebrations at the US Department of State.



Independence Day 2025
★ U.S. Department of State ★

The evening ended with a spectacle of fireworks which beautifully lit the night sky in Washington, D.C. 🇺🇸



THE FATE OF THE SCHOONER *MALTA**

Dan Brock

Melrose Paquet, a fellow member of the Maltese Canadian community here in London, Ontario, sent me a photo of this rather interesting plaque.



Later, she sent this photo of the rudder itself with an image of a parrot perched on it. All this, of course, tweaked my curiosity.



Research on Google revealed that the salvaged remains of the massive rudder from the schooner *Malta* are to be found high on the bluffs of Bayfield's Pioneer Park.

According to the vessel's captain, Henry Buckley of Chicago, on the night of Friday, November 24, 1882, he mistook the light of a candle in a second storey window at Bayfield for the lighthouse at Goderich. Subsequently, he steered the *Malta* onto a sand bar just south of Bayfield's pier some 12½ nautical miles south of Goderich.

Dave Yates, in his article "The rescue of the schooner 'Malta' in Bayfield," which appeared in the *Clinton News-Record* on October 12, 2016, states the schooner was "on a run from Port Huron to Goderich for one last load of salt." It was the bright lights from the second storey of the Barker House on Bayfield's Main Street, on the night of November 24th which attracted the crew of the *Malta* during a gale force blizzard. On the second storey in question Loyal Orange Order #24 was hosting a feast of St. Andrew's oyster supper, the feast day actually occurring on Thursday, November 30th in 1882.

As for Captain Buckley, he ordered his crew to sail towards the light. Upon realizing his error too late, the Captain "ran the *Malta* hard between two rocks off Signal Point one-quarter mile south of the Bayfield river mouth. Fortunately, the *Malta* was wedged upright between the rocks but too far for the crew to reach the safety of shore."

Eventually, the Orangemen, a good many of whom were local fishermen, became aware of the blight of the crew.

By the light of an oil lamp, the men on shore were able to catch a light line from the *Malta*. They were then able to drag the line ashore and lash it to a heavier line. One end of the heavy line was then tied around a tree trunk while the other end was hauled back to the *Malta*.

The rope was pulled taut between the ship and the tree and despite the storm's fury, all ten crew members, 9 men, 1 woman and one parrot, traversed the line and made it safely ashore.

The woman on board the *Malta*, was probably Captain Buckley's wife, as Lucy R. Woods in "Rambling with Lucy" which appeared on page 4B of the December 10, 1970 issue of the *Clinton News-Record*, stated that Buckley had returned to Chicago "with his son Harry."

While no one perished, the *Malta* could not be freed, and so she remained in the shallow water. For a few decades the cabin of the schooner acted as a bathhouse.



The wreck of the schooner *Malta* and the bathhouse made from her cabin, c. 1888

Jackie Hovey collection, item 2023.0003.001,
Bayfield Historical Society

Woods further noted that "the *Malta* was left a derelict open to pilfering or salvage by those who wished to do so. The great tall masts were taken off by Jas. Donaldson, sawed into lengths and made into shingles." She further related that a person by the name of "Ira Stonehouse tried to burn the wreck and did manage to salvage some metal this way."

Both the bathhouse and the remains of the *Malta* were broken up and buried during the Great Storm of November 7-10, 1913. This deadliest and most destructive natural disaster to hit the Great Lakes in recorded history took the lives of more than 250 people.

In the early 1950s storms caused a further breakup of the hull and its keel ended up breaking in two.

Then, in the winter of 1974, according to an article which appeared on page 23A of the June 24, 1976 issue of the *Clinton News-Record*, two brothers, Mike and West Gozzard discovered what turned out to be the 1,500-lb. (680 kg) rudder of the *Malta* wedged behind "a massive rock."

After much difficulty and several failed attempts, their father, Ted Gozzard, and some other men managed to haul the rudder ashore by way of the Bayfield harbour.

For a time, the rudder stood on a cement base at the gateway of the Gozzard residence on Tuyil Street before being transferred to its present site.

The question remains as to what further can be learned of the *Malta*.

In 1942, W.E. Philips wrote in an issue of the *Goderich Signal Star* that "the *Malta* was a sturdy sailing ship built in 1853 at St Catherine's [sic.] of the 'finest oak.' With three masts, at 137.5 feet in length, 23.5 feet abeam and with a carrying capacity of 22,000 bushels, the *Malta* was a substantial vessel."

The "Provisional List – Shickluna Vessels of Record (Revised April 1st, 1980)" on page 12 of *Maltese Forum* (Summer 1980), indicates, however, that Philips was confusing two vessels, built at Louis Shickluna's shipyard in St. Catharines. This is the same Luigi Scicluna/Louis Shickluna credited with being the first Maltese settler in present-day Canada.

The first *Malta* was a 320-ton barkentine built in 1853 for H.A. Berryman for \$15,000 (about \$510,740 today). The second *Malta* was the 196-ton three-masted schooner built in 1879. It is this second vessel, owned by Captain Henry Buckley, and measuring 138 ft. x 24 ft. x 8 ft. which was grounded in 1882.

From time to time, Lake Huron still gives up remnants of the *Malta*.



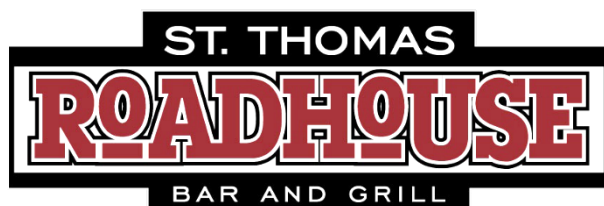
The wreck of the *Malta* on the Bayfield beach, November 18, 1991

Stu Atkinson Fonds, item 2014.0015.058,
Bayfield Historical Society

**A special debt of gratitude is owed to Julia Armstrong of the Bayfield Historical Society who provided photos and two newspaper clippings used in this article.*

LUNCH AT THE ST. THOMAS ROADHOUSE**Dan Brock**

On Thursday, June 18th, 24 of us left home to the rain to attend this month's luncheon at the St. Thomas Roadhouse in that city.



The change of venue led to four new faces – Terry Collins, Rita Silverthorn, Kathy Westelaken and Josey Wasyluk - from St. Thomas joining us.

We had an entire section to ourselves with more than sufficient seating at tables or booths.

**Josey Wasyluk, Miriam & Ron McLean****Joe & Bernadette Gall****Lynda & Tony Galea and Charles Micallef****Rose Micallef and Joe & Gerry Borg****Rita Silverthorn and
Vicky & Herman Van Der Heyden**



Sandy Flay, Terry Collins and Kathy Westelaken



Jim McDonald and Brian Groulx



**Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham
and Loretta & Dan Brock**

Most found the meals quite good. Unfortunately, despite management being given a two-day advanced notice of our numbers, there was insufficient service for our group. Consequently, some orders and bills got mixed up and some had to wait an inordinate time for their meals or drinks.

Notwithstanding, most seemed to have enjoyed the afternoon and the weather cooperated with the sun having come out and the parking lot and streets almost completely dry when we were leaving.



IN SEARCH OF THE SCIBERRAS BROTHERS OF DETROIT

Dan Brock

On the passenger list of the *Marine Shark* which docked in New York Harbor on July 25, 1947, Joseph Blanco (aka Joseph Gomez Blanco), formerly of Marsa, Malta, had declared that he was en route to Detroit and that the contact person there was his uncle "Sam Scibineo." Sam's address was given as 1744 12th Street, in Detroit.

My suspicions that this Sam Scibineo was actually Sam Sciberras proved correct when I read his draft card which was registered on February 16, 1942. On it he stated that he was living at the above address on 12th Street, that he was born in Malta on February 9, 1898 and that he worked at the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. Sam also gave the name of Saverio Sciberras of 1451 Bayley Street, Detroit as the person who would always know Sam's address.

28

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER T. 57	1. NAME (Print) SAM	ORDER NUMBER 10417
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1744 12 th ST. DETROIT WAYNE MICH.		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same		
4. TELEPHONE 110	5. AGE IN YEARS 44	6. PLACE OF BIRTH MILTA
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS SAVERIO SCIBERRAS 1451 Bagley Detroit Mich		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Ford Mtr Co.		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Detroit Mich		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 1-1-42)		Sam Sciberras (Registrant's signature)

This Saverio Sciberras' draft card shows that he had registered on October 16, 1940 as Saver Sciberras. He stated that he had been born in Marsa, Malta on August 7, 1906, was also employed by the Ford Motor Company and that Sam Sciberras of 1744 12th Street was his brother.

SERIAL NUMBER 3019 1. NAME (Print) SAVER SCIBERRAS ORDER NUMBER 1140

2. ADDRESS (Print) 1520 TUMBULL DETROIT MICH

3. TELEPHONE 34

4. AGE IN YEARS 34

5. PLACE OF BIRTH MARSA MALTA

6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS SAM SCIBERRAS

8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON BROTHER

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1744 TWELTH DETROIT WAYNE MICH

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME FORDS MOTOR CO

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS DEARBORN MICH

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1 (over) 10-17105

Saver Sciberras
(Registrant's signature)

The back of the draft card denotes Saverio/Saver as having 13 tattoos on his body. As we shall later see, he had been a sailor.

BACK OF DRAFT CARD

PLACE	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	COMPLETION
1. Name	2. Age	3. Birth	4. Place
5. Place	6. Place	7. Place	8. Place
9. Place	10. Place	11. Place	12. Place
13. Place	14. Place	15. Place	16. Place
17. Place	18. Place	19. Place	20. Place
21. Place	22. Place	23. Place	24. Place
25. Place	26. Place	27. Place	28. Place
29. Place	30. Place	31. Place	32. Place
33. Place	34. Place	35. Place	36. Place
37. Place	38. Place	39. Place	40. Place
41. Place	42. Place	43. Place	44. Place
45. Place	46. Place	47. Place	48. Place
49. Place	50. Place	51. Place	52. Place
53. Place	54. Place	55. Place	56. Place
57. Place	58. Place	59. Place	60. Place
61. Place	62. Place	63. Place	64. Place
65. Place	66. Place	67. Place	68. Place
69. Place	70. Place	71. Place	72. Place
73. Place	74. Place	75. Place	76. Place
77. Place	78. Place	79. Place	80. Place
81. Place	82. Place	83. Place	84. Place
85. Place	86. Place	87. Place	88. Place
89. Place	90. Place	91. Place	92. Place
93. Place	94. Place	95. Place	96. Place
97. Place	98. Place	99. Place	100. Place

13 TATTOOS ON BODY

LOCAL BOARD NO. 23
Wayne County
1498 Cadillac Square Bldg.
Detroit, Michigan
OFFICE OF LOCAL BOARD

As for Sam, a passport was issued to him, as Salvatore Sciberras, on April 10, 1917. He was listed as illiterate and a labourer living on Strada Bellia in Marsa where he had been born on February 8, 1898. (Note, he had given February 9th as his date of birth on his draft card. Such discrepancies are rather common on documents, especially if the individual happened to be illiterate.)

Salvatore gave his destination as Marseille, France. In fact, he boarded the *Dante Alighieri* in Genoa, Italy and arrived in New York Harbor on May 31, 1917. From there he planned to go to Toronto, Ontario to work as a labourer.

Apparently, he returned to Malta as he is believed to be the same S. Sciberras, age 25, who was one of five Maltese men who signed on as crew members on the British steamship *Otterburn* in Marseille, in December 1922 and who jumped ship, either in New York or Philadelphia, in January 1923.

The next I learn of Salvatore (aka Sam) is his working as a steward on board the *Majestic* which sailed from Southampton, England and arrived in New York Harbor on January 29, 1924. Did he jump ship again? This might explain why I found no declaration of intention to become an American citizen as he may have entered the country illegally.

In the Lucas County, Ohio marriage register we find that Sam Sciberras, a laborer in Detroit, was married to Glorietta Fugett, also of Detroit, by a judge on August 1, 1938. It was the first marriage for both. Sam declared that he had turned 40 years of age on February 5, 1938. He also stated that he was born in Malta to Mike Sciberras and Angeline Gatt.

I've found nothing further on Sam Salvatore other than that he was a resident of Detroit at the time of his death on March 19, 1987.

As a former school teacher, we had an expression, "Apples don't fall far from the tree." It would appear that sometime prior to being issued a passport on April 5, 1925, Saverio Sciberras, Sam's brother, had been a stowaway aboard ship and had been deported. In any case, his passport indicated that he had been born in Hamrum on August 8, 1906, was living at 13 Strada Cappuccini, Marsa, and was intending to go to New York City. Unlike his brother Sam, Saverio could read and write.

According to his declaration of intention, dated August 27, 1927, Saverio was also known as Francesco Saverio Sciberras, and had arrived in New York Harbor, on board the *Bengle*, via Marseille on August 26, 1925. His residence at the time was given as 2323 Sixth Street, Detroit and his occupation as fireman.

Form 500-1
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL

No. 74184

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

Eastern District of Michigan, } ss: In the District Court of the United States,
Southern Division

I, Francesco Saverio Sciberras, aged 20 years,
occupation fireman, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 8 inches,
weight 140 pounds, color of hair black, color of eyes brown
other visible distinctive marks none.
I was born in Malta
on the 7th day of August, anno Domini 1906; I now reside
at 2323 Sixth St., Detroit, Michigan.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Marseilles, France,
on the vessel Bohale; my last
foreign residence was France; I am not married; the name
of my wife is she was born at he
and now resides at he
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to George V. King of Great
Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions, of whom I am now a subject;
I arrived at the port of New York, in the
State of New York, on or about the 26th day
of August, anno Domini 1922; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court
at Detroit, Mich., this 6th day of August
anno Domini 1922.

[SEAL]

Albert R. Albo
Deputy Clerk of the District Court of the United States.

At some point Saverio returned to Malta and to his previous address in Marsa.

Another passport was issued to him on July 28, 1934. As in 1925 he gave his occupation as sailor. Saverio sailed from Naples on board the *Roma* on August 12th and arrived at New York on the 24th. His destination was Detroit where another brother, Carlo, lived at 1020 Trumbull Avenue.

Carlo Sciberras, better known as Carmelo, was born in Hamrun on June 6, 1883 and was nearly 23 years older than Saverio. Carmelo denoted himself as a shop keeper and a resident on Via Curmi [Qormi], Marsa, on his 1916 passport application to travel to Australia. In 1919 he was a fireman, living at 49 Via Croce, Marsa when he applied to go to Marseille. It was as a fireman, on board the S.S. *Picton* that he was hired in Marseille. The ship sailed for Galveston, Texas, arriving there on August 21, 1920. Cut from the same cloth as his brothers Sam and Saverio, he was one of six crew members listed as deserters.

Carmelo was still listed a fireman when issued a passport in Malta on August 12, 1922 to proceed to the United States. The only other thing known of him is that he was living in Detroit on Trumbull Avenue in 1934. More is yet known of his brother Severio.

The 1940 federal census shows Saverio Sciberras as an unmarried lodger living at 1515 Bagley Avenue in Detroit. He had had a grade 7 education was then an auto worker.

Ten years later, Saverio is still an unmarried lodger but is living at 721 Cambell Street in Detroit and is a furnace operator at an automobile plant.



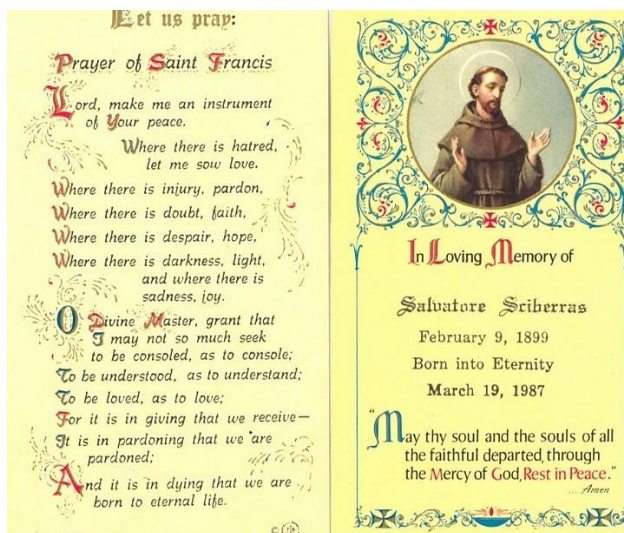
Saverio Sciberras

Photo courtesy of Bennie Blanco

Saverio, who is remembered as having an over fondness for liquor, died at the age of 59, on March 25, 1966, and was interred in Detroit's Holy Cross Cemetery.



As noted earlier, his brother Salvatore (aka Sam, Salvo) Sciberras died in 1987. A grandniece of the Sciberras brothers, Bernadette “Bennie” Blanco, believes, he too was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. In the words of Bennie Blanco, “Ziju Salvo was so good to me. Because of him, I like to go fishing. He was so kind and generous.”



Memorial card courtesy of Bennie Blanco

Saverio never married and Sam doesn't appear to have had any children.

SPECIAL BREW NAMED!

Dan Brock

In last month's issue it was noted that the public was invited to give a name to the seltzer brewed especially for Malta Fest Innarja held in Toronto's Runnymede Park on Saturday, June 21st. The name selected was Comino Breeze. Last year's selection was Luzzu.



BENNIE BLANCO'S PERSONAL TRAVEL GUIDE FOR VISITING THE MALTESE ISLANDS

Dan Brock



Bennie Blanco sent me the URL below and invited me to share it with the readership.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Eie7IXkTkiWMMmFv2oCPMfMFZ_r0Rbz/view

This complimentary travel guide of nearly 100 pages, completed in 2021, has suggestions for the preparation of your trip, what to pack and where to stay. There is a section on Maltese foods and another on some useful Maltese phrases, although virtually everyone you will meet speaks English. The bulk of this guide, however, is devoted to what to see and what to do while in this beautiful country.

One of the omissions in the guide are senior prices for admission to some museums, etc. I found they were usually about two-thirds that of the regular admission price.

As this guide was prepared four years ago, be prepared to encounter some changes, e.g. times of opening, admission prices, etc.

The bottom line is, if you have never been to Malta before or even if you have, you should find this travel guide quite useful.

OUR ANNUAL IMNARJA PICNIC

Michelle Vella Enanoria

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Maltese Cross Foundation of California's annual L-Imnarja picnic on Sunday, June 29th! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying the beautiful day at our new location in the Zwierlein Picnic Area of Huddart Park in Woodside.

We had a delicious lunch and fun games.





OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE MALTESE LIBRARY

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

On Monday, June 30th, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and the Malta Team had the pleasure of officially launching the Maltese Library at the Embassy as well as Ms. Caroline Perry's book on Malta, entitled *The Memory Cake*. The Maltese Diaspora in the DMV (District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia) was invited to attend this event and to embark on a journey back to old Malta as well as view the books within the Maltese Library.



The event ended with some mouthwatering Maltese treats and delicious chocolate cakes following the exact recipe as found in *The Memory Cake*. Many thanks to Dr. Kay Xuereb and Ms. Joanne Grech who took the time to prepare the cakes 🇲🇹



ANOTHER ANNUAL PICNIC HELD AT SPRINGBANK PARK

Dan Brock

This year's annual picnic of members of the Maltese community and friends in London and area was again held in Springbank Park.



**Main entrance to the pavilion
on the west side of Springbank Park
near the soccer field
Deo Catania and Charles Vella**

The weather on Friday, July 4th cooperated by being hot but not overly humid and an occasional breeze wafted its way through the pavilion where, most of the time, we were all seated.



Again, we are especially grateful to Melrose Paquet who, months in advance, made arrangements to have access to the pavilion and provided numerous "door prizes."

Most of the nearly 30 individuals present had arrived prior to lunch, including three young persons from Malta who were guests of Deo and Miranda Catania.



**Jacob Catania, Miranda Catania,
Maria Catania, Clayton Rapa, and Charles Vella**



Paul Zammit, Elsa Zammit, Lynda & Tony Galea

Following lunch several games of bingo were played.



**Loretta Brock, Janice Vella,
Ted & Barbara Gauci**



**Mary Melvin, Dee Harmsworth,
Joyce Vella and Mary Pace**

As usual everyone seemed to enjoy our time together amid peaceful surroundings not too far distant from the Thames River, named after its counterpart in the United Kingdom, as is the Ontarian city of London in which most of the group live.

Our next get together is planned to be held at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South on Tuesday, August 19th.



DIGNITARIES AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RUNNYMEDE HEALTHCARE CENTRE

Carl Azzopardi

At the invitation of Ms. Connie Dejak, President & CEO of Runnymede Healthcare Centre, Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Mario Buttigieg, attended the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Runnymede Healthcare Centre in Toronto. The event brought together several distinguished guests, including the Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Doug Ford; Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Hon. Sylvia Jones; Solicitor General, the Hon. Michael Kerzner; Parliamentary Assistant Mohammed Firin; the Mayor of Toronto, Her Worship Olivia Chow; and Chair of Runnymede Healthcare Centre, Mr. Nick Migliore.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Runnymede Healthcare Centre. As part of its ongoing expansion, a new long-term care facility is scheduled to open later this year. Notably, the facility will include a dedicated floor offering culturally appropriate care for Maltese community residents—marking a first-of-its-kind initiative in Canada.



Courtesy of Runnymede Healthcare Centre



Retirement Dinner Held For Fr. Raymond Fenech Gonzi

A retirement dinner was held for Fr. Fenech Gonzi in the hall of St. Mary's Parish, Welland, Ontario on July 12, 2025.

In the summer of 1995, he had organized his third Maltese picnic in that city within the Diocese of St. Catharines.

STEAK BARBEQUE DINNER & KING CREOLE

DAN BROCK

The setting up of the hall commenced just before noon the Thursday before Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the Maltese Canadian Club of London. Preparations for the steak barbeque dinner began about 3:00 p.m. that day.



Mike Poole, Mannie Micallef and Toni Poole were about to begin preparations for the evening's barbeque steak dinner

Photo courtesy of the late Margaret Dodds-Farrugia

The newly-purchased barbeque was used for the preparation of the steaks and, shortly after 6:00 p.m., everything was ready to serve. The meal consisted of fresh salad and buns, followed by the main course consisting of barbequed steak, small round, oven-roasted potatoes and vegetables. This was followed by a generous portion of apple pie *à la mode*, along with coffee or tea. The meal was preceded and followed by a fine selection of Maltese music.



Mannie Micallef and Larry Paquet prepare the steaks on the Club's new barbeque

Photo courtesy of Tony Galea

Following the dinner, 50/50 tickets were sold. Draws for the door prizes and the 50/50 were made after the performance of Elvis tribute artist, "King Creole." Melita Cronin was the winner of the 50/50 draw.

"King Creole" put on a good Vegas-years-style performance. While singing, he mingled with the crowd, posed for photos and handed out scarves to a few of the women present. Elvis tribute artist Jack Timmermans has a good singing voice and, if you close your eyes, it's hard not to believe you're listening to Elvis himself. He also has many of Elvis' mannerisms down pat.



Frank Calleja and Larry Mizzi with "King Creole"

Photo courtesy of Tony Galea

After the draws had been made and "King Creole" had left the building, a number of those who stayed ended the evening by playing cards.



Some took this game more seriously than others.

Photo courtesy of Tony Galea

Fifty-five individuals were present for the Club's first steak barbeque dinner and entertainment, the first function to be declared a "tremendous success" in a long time.

TIMES OF MALTA

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025 | 5

NATIONAL

One man's fight to keep Maltese spirit alive in North America

85-year-old keeps Maltese community connected, but who will be his successor?

EMMA BORG

An 85-year-old man with no Maltese ancestry is the unlikely force behind a popular e-newsletter that keeps the Maltese community in North America connected. But with no successor in sight, the future of the publication hangs in the balance.

Dan Brock is an 85-year-old Canadian of Polish, Irish and English ancestry. He is also the editor of *The Maltese Presence* in North America, a monthly newsletter read by thousands.

Despite not being Maltese, Brock has spent the last six years compiling letters, stories and photos that help Maltese communities, often separated by geography and time, stay in touch.

Yet with the number of Maltese clubs in decline and younger people less involved, Brock has so far found no one to take over the project.

"I'm concerned that without the younger generations, i.e. individuals under 60, joining and taking an active part in the local Maltese clubs, these clubs will be forced to disband," Brock said.

Although he is not Maltese by heritage, Brock's connection to the community began through his wife, Loretta, who is Maltese. He has since also become a dual Maltese citizen.

The couple joined the Maltese-Canadian Club of London in 2005. Brock eventually took on several roles in the organisation, including serving as the club's newsletter editor.

When the London club closed its doors in 2018, Brock considered stepping aside. But instead, he chose to start another newsletter, this time with a wider scope that reached beyond Canada to include Maltese communities throughout North America.

"No one was coming forward to be the 'glue' to head this," Brock said. "I then offered to

serve as the 'clearing house' for keeping the group in touch via e-mails. This was all that was needed."

Since then, *The Maltese Presence* in North America has become a reference point for members of the Maltese diaspora. A place to share community events, celebrate heritage and keep track of social clubs across Ontario, Detroit, New York, California and beyond. Each issue features letters from contributors, photographs of events like bocci or fenkata nights, and updates on visits by Maltese dignitaries to local clubs.

The newsletter is now in its 73rd issue, having started in January 2019. It is read by a dedicated audience that includes older community members as well as younger readers.

"I know that the newsletter is read by some in their 20s. I have one in mind to hopefully continue the newsletter. He expressed an interest in so doing a few years ago," Brock said.

However, unfortunately, when he recently tried to contact the person in mind, they did not respond, leaving him in the lurch.

Brock, a historian by background, believes his skills have helped him shape the newsletter into something meaningful.

"With my talents in the area of history, I could fill a gap in our community which no one else was occupying," he said.

"I believe that God has given me a talent in this area and, in the absence of anyone else stepping forward to undertake the bringing of the Maltese of all North America somehow in touch with one another... it behoves me to step to the plate."

He credits his inspiration to a man named Tony Vella, who he described as "the heart and soul of the London club". One of Vella's dreams was to reunite all the Maltese clubs in North America, something that once happened in 1945 – when the Maltese Society of Toronto and the Maltese



Members of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto and the Maltese Legion of Detroit at a 1945 Malta Day celebration in old St. Paul's Hall in Toronto. PHOTO: RICHARD CUMBO TORONTO

Legion of Detroit gathered at St Paul's Hall in Toronto to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Victory.

A similar event was attempted in 1981, but it never materialised.

Brock said his idea for the newsletter was also shaped by publications from the Maltese-Australian community, including Frank L. Scicluna's *The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora* and *The Voice of the Maltese* by Joseph Cutajar and Lawrence Dimech.

He sees the newsletter not just as a way to share updates, but also as a tool for cultural preservation.

Its aim, he said, is "to assist the Maltese living in North America in learning more about their family's past" through articles by academics and contacts for community leaders and contributors from across the diaspora.

Between 1946 and 1996, nearly 20,000 Maltese people migrated to Canada, with the highest numbers arriving in the early 1950s. Over the same period, around 11,500 moved to the United States. However, by the 1980s, the number of new arrivals had dwindled, and many existing communities gradually assimilated into Canadian and American society.

This has made it increasingly difficult to keep Maltese cultural institutions active, and interest among younger generations remains limited.

For now, Brock continues to publish the newsletter each month. But with no confirmed editor waiting in the wings, its long-term future remains uncertain.



Ted Gauci, Loretta and Dan Brock, with Malta's President George Vella, at the Liuna Station in Hamilton, Ontario, on May 27, 2023. PHOTO: DAN BROCK



The cover of the newsletter

From *Times of Malta*, July 8, 2025 @ timesofmalta.com.