



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 75

AUGUST 2025

A CELEBRATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN CULTURE,
STE. ANNE DE DETROIT BASILICA



Fr. Joseph Mallia, Msgr. Charles Kosanke and Deacon Aaron Poyer

Photo courtesy of Tanya Caruana

**Maltese Presence
in North America**
Issue No. 75 August 2025

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Here it is already September and the August issue of the newsletter is just making its appearance!

The last several weeks have been busier than usual for me, mainly owing to the preparation of articles and talks relating to local history. And then there is my recent interest in Maltese immigration to Brazil.

I know Brazil is not in North America but the interest of H.M. John J. Aquilina, the current Ambassador of Malta to Brazil, and a couple Brazilians of Maltese descent was too tempting for me. Moreover, this appears to be a gap in the preservation of the history of the Maltese diaspora which requires attention.

It has also tweaked the interest of Mark Caruana and Charles Said Vassallo of NWS, Australia and George Pisani and Stephanie Schembri of the National Archives of Malta. Representatives on four continents are now mining the rock face of the Maltese presence in Brazil!

A great source for research on one's family in Malta is the National Archives of Malta. I have found the passport applications and ships' registers particularly rewarding. The email address is customercare.archives@gov.mt.

Miriam (Micallef) McLean, a native of Malta living in Southwestern Ontario since early childhood, has shared with me some very interesting family photos taken in both Malta and Canada. Hopefully, these will be shared with you in a subsequent issue of this newsletter.

Likewise, these older photos have inspired me to plan to write an article, including photos, on some of the photographic studios in Malta in the first half of the 20th century. This is with the intention of helping readers date some of the family photos taken in Malta which they may have in their possession.

Owing to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, all issues and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. Click on to "News & Resources."

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com.

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

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

The **Members' Annual Picnic** was held on Sunday, July 20th. (See page 5.)

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

The **Malta Day Gala** will take place on Saturday, September 20th.

The **Classic Car Show** will be held on Sunday, October 4th.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

The Annual Festa and 85th Anniversary

Celebration of the Club will be held on Sunday, September 7th, starting with a Mass at 11:00 a.m.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The **Maltese Picnic Bob Farr Tribute** was held on Sunday, August 10th, at the **Kensington Metropark North Martindale Shelter**. (See pages 17-21)

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center NYC

Katherine Buttigieg and Shannon Grech hosted a BBQ at the Center on Saturday, August 2nd. This was another great opportunity to support the Center and Maltese culture.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Leħen Malti

LEħEN 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 **Semi-Annual General Meeting** was held on Sunday, July 27th

A **Festa San Gejtanu Dinner & Dance** took place on Saturday, August 9th.

Malta Day was celebrated on Saturday, August 23rd.

Another **Car Show** was hosted on the Club's premises on Sunday, August 31st.

The **Santa Maria/Ii-Vittoria Dinner Dance** is being held on Saturday, September 6th.

A **Pre-Malta Day Dinner & Dance Concert** will be held on the evening of Saturday, September 20th with **Maltese Cuisine** and the **Vinyl Paradise Show**. (See page 4.)

The **2025 Maestro Paul Gauci Concert** will take place on Saturday October 4th.

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **Casino Rama Bus Trip** took place on Saturday, July 26th.

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

The Maltese trio **Vinyl Paradise** will be performing at the Club on Friday, September 19th. (See page 4.)

Another **Bus Trip** to Niagara Falls is planned for September 27th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

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

The annual **Anniversary Dinner & Dance** will be taking place on Saturday, October 4th following the 4:30 p.m. **Vigil Mass**.

London

The group held a **Luncheon** on Tuesday, August 19th at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South in London. (See pages 11-12.)

The next Luncheon will be at the **Piper Arms**, on Wonderland Road South, London on Tuesday, September 16th.

Windsor

Malta United Society

The Club held a **Ravioli Dinner** on Saturday, August 16th.

A **Hobż Biż-Żejt Dinner** is taking place on Saturday, September 6th.

VINYL PARADISE

Dan Brock

This blues/rock trio and Malta Music Award nominee, comprised of Ben Bailey (guitar/vocals), Antoine Tonna (bass) and Patrick Camilleri (drums) will be making their first promotional Canadian tour on September 19th-25th. The group will be performing at the Melita Soccer Club in Toronto on Friday, the 19th, at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, on the evening of Saturday, the 20th and at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival on Thursday, the 25th.

Vinyl Paradise has been playing to audiences across Malta and the UK since 2017.



Ben Bailey, Patrick Camilleri and Antoine Tonna



ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THERESA ANN DARMANIN

Dan Brock

It was on August 15, 2024 that Theresa Ann Darmanin, a longtime member of the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, MI passed away, three days short of her 85th birthday.

Theresa was born in Detroit on August 18, 1939, the second youngest of nine children of Lawrence and Mary (Schembri) Zahra. Her father, a native of Vittoriosa, had come out on the *Rochambeau* in April 1920. Her mother and three eldest siblings – Joseph, Lawrence J., and John - all natives of Vittoriosa - had arrived at New York Harbor on board the *Olympic* on August 19, 1925, joining Lawrence, Sr. in Detroit.

Mary Frances, the fourth child, was born in 1927, followed by Margaret, Carmen, Harry and then Theresa. Lawrence Anthony was born in 1944, following the death of his older brother Lawrence J., one year and four days earlier on August 24, 1943. Lawrence J., a soldier in the U.S. Army, died in the station hospital at Camp Moxey, Lamar, TX as a result of an automobile accident.

The Zahra family was living at 1727 Labrosse Street in Detroit's Corktown at the time of the 1950 census. After graduating from St. Vincent High School, which stood near the southeast corner of 14th and Dalzelle streets, Theresa worked at Hughes & Hatcher clothing store and Ex-Cell-o, manufacturers of machinery.

On August 1964 in Buffalo, NY, Theresa married Joseph Darmanin, who is believed to have been her first cousin.

Joseph was born on February 21, 1932, in Vittoriosa, Malta to Emmanuel Darmanin and the former Catherina Zahra, the latter being a presumed sister of Lawrence Zahra, Sr. Joe Darmanin had immigrated to the United States on board the *Nea Hellas* from Malta. He arrived in New York Harbor on March 24, 1952 and gave as his destination the home of the Lawrence Zahras on Labrosse Street in Michigan.

At first Joe and Theresa Darmanin lived in Detroit, but by 1965 had moved to Lathrup, MI. There, they raised two children, Michael and Darnell. Joe died on June 18, 2007.

In addition to being active in the Maltese Club in Dearborn, Theresa was very active in gardening and watercolor painting. She also was very passionate about animals. Along with her children, their spouses and her five grandchildren, her two cats, Pupa and Marley, were also named in her obituary.



The Funeral Mass for Theresa was celebrated at Christ Our Light Catholic Church in Troy, MI and she was buried next to her husband Joe, in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, MI.

HOSTING THE DE LA SALLE COLLEGE CHESS TEAM OF MALTA

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

In early August, Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb and the Malta Team hosted the School Chess Team from De la Salle College Malta, who were in Washington, DC to compete in the Chess World Schools Team Championship 2025 at Episcopal High School in nearby Arlington Virginia. The Embassy wished the team the best of luck. 



OUR MEMBERS' ANNUAL PICNIC

Rita Borg

A fun time was had at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco's members' annual picnic on Sunday, July 20th.



A BOOK SIGNING OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF IN MALTA

Dan Brock

While staying at the Hotel Phoenicia in Floriana, Malta, this August, Rena Xuereb was asked if she was celebrating any special occasion. She said, "Yes, the publication of my book *Courage of a Maltese Immigrant*." She was then offered an opportunity to have a book signing in the hotel's lobby. This took place between 12:00 and 15:00 on Wednesday, August 20th.

Rena is a trustee at the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn, Michigan. Her book, *Courage of A Maltese Immigrant: Stories My Mother Shared With Me & More*, was noted in both the April and May 2024 issues of this newsletter. Copies are still available through Amazon and IngramSpark.



ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF STELLA MARY FARRUGIA

Dan Brock



Stella Mary Farrugia passed away on August 15, 2024 at the age of 96. She was the widow of the late Daniel Lawrence Farrugia and the mother of five children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Stella was born in Malta on September 3, 1927, the youngest of eight children of Lorenzo and Annetta Mallia. Her elder siblings were: Carmelo, Paul, Emmanuel, Dominic, Joseph, Dolly and Lucy.

Stella immigrated in 1951 to Detroit, MI to join her brother Emmanuel, who was living in Detroit, MI.

Emmanuel, who was born in 1914, had arrived in Detroit more than a decade earlier and on May 7, 1942, had married Carmela "Carrie" Farrugia the eldest child of Salvatore and Michelina (Cassar) Farrugia, who had emigrated from Valletta, Malta to Detroit sometime between 1924 and 1930.

Stella had been seasick for most of the 15 days in on board ship. She arrived at Ellis Island on October 29, 1951, and took the train to Detroit where she went to live with Emmanuel and his family.

Stella quickly learned English and got a job at the Ford Motor Company sewing materials for car doors.

Meanwhile, Carrie's brother Daniel Lawrence Farrugia, a barber like his father Salvatore, had returned from serving in the Korean War. Daniel was the middle child and was the first to be born in Detroit. Carrie and the brother Joe had been born in Valletta. The third brother, Frank, was born in Canada. Like Daniel, the three youngest children—Rosie, Lauria and Catherine—were born in Detroit.

It was "love at first sight" for Daniel and Stella and they were married on May 15, 1954. By 1974, they had moved to the Detroit suburb of Canton.

Daniel, who was born on April 15, 1930, died in Canton on November 5, 2019 and was interred in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Following her Funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Church in Canton, on August 19, 2024, Stella's remains too were taken to Glen Eden Cemetery.

EXCERPTS FROM READER COMMENTS AFTER RECEIVING THE JULY 2025 ISSUE

Another interesting newsletter as always. I especially enjoyed the article by Emma Borg. Finally, you get the praise you so deserve. I am familiar with Emma's work as she is the one who interviewed and critiqued my book *Courage of a Maltese Immigrant*. I was so very proud to be 100% Maltese just then knowing my interview made it to *The Times of Malta*. What a great feeling. I truly enjoy your monthly newsletter. As I mentioned once before I always make myself a cup of tea with a splash of evaporated milk and curl up on my chair and enjoy every page of the newsletter. I can imagine all the hard work and deadlines you put on yourself month after month. Dan, know that thousands of people enjoy your well orchestrated newsletter each and every month.

Rena Xuereb, Michigan

I would like to say thanks for sending me this newsletter from time to time. As you might remember, I am working upon a project regarding Maltese traditions in Malta and abroad. You kindly sent me a script of a Midnight Christmas Boy sermon. I tried to rewrite this sermon as it is written in post First World War Maltese by a monk(?) who used Italian as his mother language. Can you please help me?

Joseph C Camilleri, Malta

Thank you so very much. I will enjoy reading it as if I had never set eyes on it before. This is a monthly experience which I cherish. Thanks again.

Maria Pia Gauci, Malta

I can't tell you how much I look forward to these. Thank you for putting this together and congratulations on your well-deserved feature.

Rachael Cini Darin, Michigan



It's about time that your work for the Maltese has been acknowledged! Good on the *Times of Malta*. I for one want to compliment and congratulate you for the work you've done on behalf of the Maltese in North America. Prost! And to think although there is not a drop of physical Maltese blood in your veins, it is evident in your heart! The love and passion for the Maltese diaspora overflows. It saddens me that no young Maltese has stepped forward to take up the torch and continue your publication. Hopefully someone will eventually step forward and continue your work.

Fred Aquilina, California



THE FIRST OBSERVANCE OF MALTA NATIONAL DAY BY THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB, LONDON — ONTARIO

Dan Brock

On Monday, September 6, 1954, the recently formed Maltese Canadian Club, London — Ontario, observed its first Malta National Day. This was held on the 6th, as opposed to the 8th, so as to take advantage of the Labour Day holiday. Thus, members would not have taken time off from work if the Day were observed on Wednesday.

Prior to Monday, the local CFPL radio station had announced the observance for the benefit of all Maltese Canadian residents in London and area and Club secretary David Leeks had contacted members by telephone.

The day began with the celebration of a Requiem Mass at 10:30 a.m. in St. Peter's Cathedral by Father Emidio Cremona OFM, of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto.

Following Mass, a parade was held, under police escort, to the Cenotaph in nearby Victoria Park. Vince Rizzo carried the Maltese flag and Dominic Micallef carried the Union Jack. (This was before Canada adopted its present flag in 1965.) Peter Campbell, as chairman, and David Leeks carried the wreath and laid it at the Cenotaph. There, two minutes of silence were observed in honour of the dead in the Siege of Malta of 1565 and of the Maltese, British Empire, Allied and American forces who died in World War II.

The evening marked the unofficial opening of the Club's new premises at 62 Dundas Street—now the site of the Court House and Land Registry Office. In addition to soft drinks provided by the Club, cakes, candies, peanuts, etc. were donated by Tilbest Food Limited on Wharncliffe Road South, where Walter Attard, a Maltese Canadian non-member of the Club, worked.

George Mizzi had been directed to take photographs of the day's proceedings at the Cathedral, Cenotaph and evening's entertainment.

**THE SPITERI FAMILY:
ONE OF THE FEW MALTESE FAMILIES OF
1912 WHO REMAINED IN BRAZIL**

Embassy of Malta in Brazil

On March 28, 1912, a group of 73 emigrants consisting of 13 families left Valletta for Marseilles aboard the French ship SS. *Carthage*, their final destination being Brazil.

Accompanied by Father Pietro Paulo Charbon from Birkirkara, the group arrived in Santos, on board the *Provence*, on April 26, 1912.

On April 18, 1912, another group of 106 Maltese, 17 families, left Valletta, also on the *Carthage*, for Marseilles. There, boarding a transatlantic ship, they arrived in Santos on May 19th of that year.

The first group went to work on the coffee plantation at the Santa Eulália farm in Biotas, São Paulo, while the second group went to work at the São José farm in Fortaleza, Ceará. By August 1913, Maltese emigration to Brazil came to an end owing to the difficulties of work and the lack of a clear emigration policy. Many returned to Malta. The few that remained had to survive by themselves.

Over the years, other Maltese have settled in Brazil, especially Maltese missionaries. As of today, at least 51 Brazilians have obtained Maltese citizenship by descent. One of them is Inez Spiteri Carraro.

Inez's family was one of the families sent to Fortaleza. In this article, she shares photos of her grandparents, Giovanni and Maria Thereza (Vella) Spiteri, her father Anthony and his brother Fortunato.



Giovanni Spiteri



Maria Tereza (nee Vella) & Giovanni Spiteri



Maria Tereza (nee Vella) & Giovanni Spiteri

Inez Spiteri Carraro writes:

My grandfather Giovanni Spiteri was born on February 2, 1872, in Żebbuġ, Malta and married my grandmother Maria Tereza Vella on May 1, 1898. In Malta they had five children, three girls and two boys: Carmel, Giuseppina, Francisco, Rosa and Anthony (my father). Fortunato, the sixth child, was born in Brazil.

The Maltese suffered a lot on the São José farm in Fortaleza in the State of Ceará. Therefore, my family then went to work in the State of São Paulo on another coffee farm. They later went to yet another coffee farm in Descalvado, São Paulo and stayed there for some years, before moving to São Paulo, the state capital. There, they settled first in the district of Perdizes and later in Vila Pompéia.



Anthony Spiteri in later years



Anthony and Fortunato Spiteri as young men

It was while living in Vila Pompéia that my grandfather, along with others, was hired to work in Santos as a painter at the Atlântico Hotel, which, at the time, was in its final phase of construction.

Giovanni "John" Spiteri died during a fire on January 22, 1937, and my grandmother was left alone. She used to be quite grumpy and only spoke the Maltese dialect. I remember my father speaking Maltese with my grandmother and his brothers and sisters.



FURTHER DATA ON THE SPITERI FAMILY AND ŻEBBUĞ CONNECTIONS

Dan Brock and Mark Caruana

Based on the above article received from Ambassador John J. Aquilina of the Maltese Embassy in Brazil our interest was tweaked to further explore those who came out to Brazil from Malta.

Guiseppe Spiteri's passport application reveals that the family was living at 23 Mamo Street in Żebbuġ and were planning on travelling to Brazil. As the application was dated March 3, 1912, this would have given the family opportune time to be among the 13 families and 73 individuals to have boarded the S.S. *Carthage* in the Grand Harbour on March 28th and to have disembarked at the port of Santos in Brazil on April 26th.

But this was not the case. A study of the passenger lists of the *Carthage* for both March 28th and April 18th of 1912, reveals that this Spiteri family was on neither trip to Marseilles. Based on Inez Spiteri Carraro's statement that the family did arrive in Santos, Brazil in the spring of 1912 and were first taken to the fazenda of São José de Fortalez we can only conclude that the Spiteri family sailed from Malta to Marseilles on a different vessel. There, they joined up with the group departing from Marseilles on April 18th.

Now the surviving passport applications for 1912 reveal two other families from Żebbuġ who would also appear to have travelled to Brazil in the spring of 1912, namely that of Amabile Camilleri who lived on Mamo Street and Lorenzo Caruana who resided on Reale (Main) Street.

A further study of the surviving passport applications makes it quite reasonable to believe that the decision to immigrate to Brazil by the Spiteri, Camilleri and Caruana families was influenced by at least three other residents of Żebbuġ, that being Salvator Abela of Musxi (Muxi) Street, Loreto Galea of Mula Street and Giuseppi Sammut of Reale Street, who applied to go to Brazil in the latter half of 1911. Both Loreto and Giuseppi specified that they intended to go to São Paulo.

Coat of arms
of São Paulo State



DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT.

(a) Valletta 14th March 1912.
 I, the Undersigned, (b) Giovanni Spiteri
 residing at Caral Lebbey St. James 23, hereby declare that I am
 (c) the wife of John Spiteri having been born 1872
 a (d) British born Subject having been born 1872
 at Caral Lebbey on the 26 day of February 1872.

FOR PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).
 (e) my (h.i.) father having been born within His Majesty's Dominions at
 on the 1872 day of February

and not having lost the status of British Subject thus acquired, and I hereby apply for a Passport
 for the purpose of travelling to (e) Brazil - I am taking my wife
Maria Teresa and five children - viz. Carmela - Giuseppe,
Francesco, Maria Rosa, and Antonia.
 (f) Signed Giovanni Spiteri

AND I, the Undersigned, (g) Parish Priest of Port Salvo
 residing at St. Dominic's Convent, hereby declare that to the best
 of my knowledge and belief the above made Declaration of the said Giovanni
Spiteri is true, and that he is a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Fath Louis Fadoor

Passport application of Giovanni Spiteri and his family

Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta

OUR AUGUST LUNCHEON**Dan Brock**

This month's gathering of Maltese Canadians, spouses and friends in the London area was held at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South on Tuesday, August 19th.

**Paul Zammit and Lynda & Tony Galea****Terry Rogers and Carol Hilton****Mike Ditchfield, Helen Ditchfield and Lisa Paddon**

This is always a popular venue for the group. In fact, we constituted a group of 39 in all on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 19th. It's the first time I can recall of us having the entire room to ourselves. As usual, photos were taken of everyone present.

**Joe & Tessie Mallia, Mary Vella and Elsa Zammit****Frank & Marlene Mifsud****Melrose Paquet and Rose Micallef**



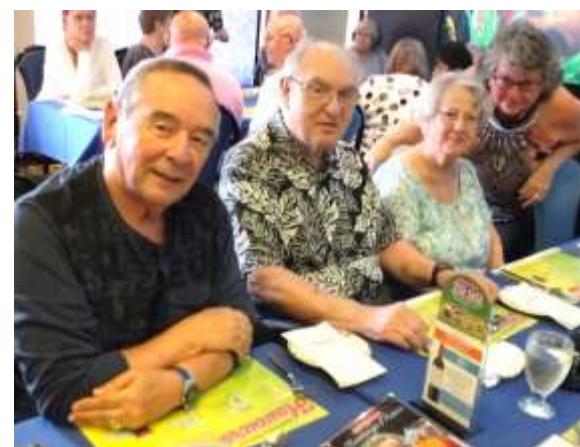
Gloria Heffler, Censa Vella and Joyce Vella



**Connie Hislop, Mary Testa
and Janice & Charles Vella**



**Bernadette & Joe Gall, Ted Gauci
and Jim McDonald**



**Charles Micallef, Mannie & Monica Micallef
and Bernadette Gall**



**Loretta & Dan Brock
and Ted & Gena Gryn**



Ron McLean, Mike Laughy and Miriam McLean



Joe & Gerry Borg

PARTICIPATION OF THE MALTESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF MICHIGAN IN THE NOVENA TO ST. ANNE

Tanya Caruana

A novena to Saint Anne, held at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, the second oldest parish in the United States, from Thursday, July 17th through Saturday, July 26th. Wednesday, July 23rd, was dedicated to the celebration of Western European culture and was organized by the Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. (Detroit, MI).

The evening started with confessions at 5:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m.



Deacon Ken Fry



Msgr. Charles “Chuck” Kosanke, pastor and rector of Ste. Anne de Detroit Parish

Fr. Joe Mallia was the celebrant and homilist. The first reading and prayers of the faithful were in Maltese. Deacon Poyer read the gospel. The choir was from St. Michael the Archangel Church in Livonia, MI.



Deacon Fry, Msgr. Kosanke and Fr. Joe at the altar



Fr. Joseph “Joe” Mallia, pastor of St. Kieran Parish, Utica, MI





Light Maltese delicacies were served after Mass compliments of the Executive Board of the Maltese American Benevolent Society.



THANK YOU to everyone who attended and helped before and after the novena at the Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit. Thanks for the making of pastizzi and cookies to share, for participating in the Mass and for passing out food after! We had a great turnout of the Maltese community of Michigan! See everyone next year.

*thank
you*

**THEY ALMOST MADE IT TOGETHER
TO THEIR 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Dan Brock

On Wednesday, October 31, 2012 Sam and Agnes Ciantar would have been married for 70 years.



**Ines & Salvu Ciantar on their wedding day,
October 31, 1942**

Photo courtesy of the late Agnes & Sam Ciantar

Saviour "Salvu" Sam was born on September 29, 1920, in Senglea, a son of John Marie Ciantar and Bernadette Brown. Bernadette's father, William, was from either Wales or England.

Salvu was employed as an electrical welder by the British Admiralty stationed in Malta. During the Second World War, he repaired battleships and aircraft carriers. In 1940, he was shipped out of Malta but, for security reasons, was not told of his destination. He ended up in Alexandria, Egypt, where he worked on the ships coming in for repairs.

While in Alexandria, Salvu rented a room in an upstairs apartment from a young woman by the name of Ines "Agnes" Darmanin. The apartment was owned by an aunt who had raised Agnes after the death of her mother who had died at the age of 36.

Ines' parents, Carmelo Darmanin and Ersilia Zammit had met at church in Alexandria. Carmelo had been born in Egypt, his parents having emigrated from Malta. Ersilia happened to be visiting Egypt with her parents at the time. Carmelo was a businessman and owned both a liquor and grocery store in Alexandria.

As for Salvu and Ines, they fell in love and were married, on October 31, 1942, in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in the Alexandrian suburb of Ibrahimieh.

With the cessation of the War, Saviour returned to Malta, in 1945, along with his wife and their son, John. Their daughter, Ersilia, named after her maternal grandmother, was born in Senglea the following year. Meanwhile, Salvu worked as a welder in the shipyard.

In May 1948, Salvu and his brother, Frans, the youngest of six brothers, were among those who immigrated to Canada and disembarked in Halifax.

Salvu or Sam found work in Collingwood, Ontario, while Frans, a machinist, went to St. Catharines. Sam was able to send for his family later that year. Agnes, along with four-year-old John and two-year-old Ersilia "Elsa," arrived in New York Harbour, on board the *Radnik*, in October of the same year.

In 1950, the same year in which their second daughter, Jean, was born, the Ciantars moved to London. Their fourth child, Susan, was born five years later. At the time, Sam was a welder at G.M. Diesel and the family was living on Second Street.

Sam passed away on September 28, 2012, the day before his 92th birthday and a little more than a month before his 70th wedding anniversary. Agnes died, at the age of 86 on December 19th of the same year.

As well as being outlived by three children - John had died in 1998 - the Ciantars are survived by eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



**Agnes & Sam Ciantar,
at their home in London, March 2005**

Photo courtesy of Elsa (Ciantar) Zammit

MALTESE PICNIC BOB FARR TRIBUTE

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci

This year's Maltese Picnic Bob Farr Tribute was held on Sunday, August 10th at the Kensington Metropark North Martindale Shelter, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Lunch was at noon.

It was a perfect day for the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn's picnic.



A beautiful day for a picnic at Martindale Beach

A big thanks to Robert Farr Jr. for supplying the dogs and burgers and to all the people who helped organize and set up the event, especially Margaret Muscat Purdy, who does SO MUCH for our club.



**Our grill masters
Robbie Farr's best guys Al and Dave**



**Our usual spot at Martindale Beach
None of our community events
would happen without this lady
Thank you, Margaret Muscat Purdy**
Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Time to eat

Everyone brought delicious food to pass around and a good time was had by all.



**It's not a picnic without watermelon
Thanks Al Attard**



Vickie Muscat with her beautiful pineapple upside down cake



Little Margaret enjoying a *qagħaq* with her great-grandfather Tom Muscat



Rose Axiak passing out her *qagħaq*



The Muscat family



Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy



Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney



**Margaret Muscat Purdy
and her namesake Margaret**



Photo courtesy of Diane Muscat Blakeney

Hamming it up



Rock painting for the kids

Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy



Making big bubbles



And the kids at heart

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Festa San Gejtanu Association

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L4Z 1R9
647-232-8845

Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto

c/o 36 Sequoia Road, Vaughan, ON L4H 1W6
905-216-8432/416-277-2291

Gozo Club Toronto

c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5
416-231-9710
gozoclub@gmail.com

Inanna on Stage

www.joannedancer.com
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1
416-707-2355
desertdancer007@yahoo.ca

Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,
Mississauga, ON, L4Y 2J6
905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

c/o St. Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-Maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Mary Vella

Lehen Malti

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

Malta Band Club Mississauga

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9
905-890-850
www.maltabandclub.com
maltabandclub@bellnet.ca



Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4
519-974-6719
maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com
Opening hours: Saturday 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
(Except holidays)

Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)

c/o 3256 Dundas Street West, Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-769-2174
Fax: 416-769-2174
maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com
att: Antonia Buttigieg

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216
313-961-8393
<http://detroitmaltese.com>
Opening hours:
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.



Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126
313-846-7077
info@malteseamericanclub.org
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
10:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.
Dinners served: Friday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 10:00
p.m.
Before and after 7:00 p.m. first
Friday Mass



Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

924 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA 94080
 650-871-4611
contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org
 Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 (every 2nd Tuesday of the month only)
 Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 Friday 5:00 p.m.– 1:00 a.m.
 Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7
mcach1964@gmail.com

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
 Tel: 011 356 21560656
mcagozo@hotmail.com

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1R9
 416-524-2573
 att: Gianni Borg

Maltese Canadian Cultural Association, The

c/o Carl Azzopardi
info@themcca.ca

Maltese-Canadian Museum

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

Maltese Canucks

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON, M6P 2A4
 416-909-7357/414-670-2662
carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
 718-728-9893
info@themaltesecenter.com
 Opening hours:
 Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Maltese Cross Foundation of California**

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
 289-939-8377
mmmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

Post Office Box 422, Millbrae, CA 94030
 650-303-1256
www.mhasfbayarea.org

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8
 Coordinator: Carmen Galea
 416-766-5830
carmengalea4949@gmail.com

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
 416-763-5317
clubmelita@gmail.com

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
 416-708-8627
www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186
govanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 647-524-1115
jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

c/o St Paul the Apostle Parish
 3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
 President: Lino Deb

**THE FIRST OBSERVANCE OF MALTA NATIONAL DAY
BY THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB, LONDON — ONTARIO**

Monday, September 6, 1954



**Proceeding to Victoria Park
from St. Peter's Cathedral**



See story on page 7.
Photos courtesy of Yvonne (Zammit) Mitchell