



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 77

NOVEMBER 2025

**THE CREDIT VALLEY FREE-MO GROUP
HOLD A MODEL TRAIN DEMONSTRATION
AT THE MALTA BAND CLUB
ON THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 17TH-19TH**



Photo courtesy of Malta Band Club Incorporated.

See pages 7-8 for photo article

**Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 77
November 2025**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Much has been happening over the past several weeks within the Maltese communities in Canada and in the United States. It's becoming hard to keep track of it all. It has also pushed this issue to 48 pages.

A first-time feature for this newsletter is the article on the model train demonstration held at the Malta Band Club Incorporated in Mississauga, Ontario (see pages 1, 7-8).

Another new feature is a list of some of the Maltese diplomatic missions in North America. (See page 47.

Much of interest is happening in the various clubs and diplomatic missions.

Many pages in this issue have been devoted to activities within the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco.

On Saturday, October 18th there was the Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner (pages 11-16), followed on Saturday, November 1st by the Country and Western Dance (pages 28-32).

The women's social group held its Cookie Exchange and Pizza on in the first half of the month (pages 33-36), followed by the Holiday Market & Craft Fair on Saturday, November 15th (pages 40-43).

The costume party held at the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit on Halloween night (pages 23-27) appears to have been a fun event.

Shock was felt throughout the Maltese diaspora and in Malta itself with the death of Mark Caruana of New South Wales, Australia (page 45). He was a proofreader for and contributor to this newsletter. His passing has left a void in countless numbers throughout the world. His memory and contributions will live on.

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.

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ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

A **Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner** took place on Saturday, October 18th. (See pages 11-16.)

Saturday, November 1st saw a **Country and Western Dance** held at the Club. (See pages 28-33.)

The **Women's Social Group** held a **Cookie Exchange and Social** on Tuesday, November 11th. (See pages 33-36.)

A **Holiday Market & Craft Fair** took place on Saturday, November 15th. (See pages 40-43.)

The **Children's Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 6th.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance** will take place on Wednesday, December 31st.

Maltese Historical Society

The **2025 Bocce Ball Tournament** was held at the Orange Memorial Park Bocce Ball Courts in South San Francisco on Saturday, October 25th.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The **Annual Holiday Market Craft Show** will take place on Sunday, November 30th.



Christmas Dinner with Santa will take place on Saturday, December 6th.



Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

A **General Membership Meeting and Spaghetti & Meatball Fundraiser** took place on Sunday, October 12th.

On the night of Friday, October 31st, an adults' only **Halloween Costume Party** was held. (See pages 24-27.)

The **Award Luncheon**, honoring the Society's scholarship recipients took place on the afternoon of Sunday, November 2nd.

At 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 7th, the **Children's Christmas Party** will be held.

A **New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner** will take place at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 31st.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center NYC

The **Adults' Halloween Party** was held on Saturday, October 25th in the Center's "Lower Dungeon."

Fr. Anthony Saliba, the Center's chaplain celebrated an **All Souls Memorial Mass** at the Center on the evening of Saturday, November 8th.

There was **Bingo** in the Lower Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, November 9th.

A **Rock & Roll Party** and **Pool Tournament** took place at the Centre on the evening of Saturday, November 22nd.

The **Maltese Center Giving Tree** for the **Ronald Mc Donald House** is displayed with tags. Each tag includes an item needed by a pediatric cancer patient (clothes, hats, diapers). Donations will be collected through December 20th and delivered to the Ronald McDonald House. Only new items can be accepted.

A **Kids Christmas Candy Land Party** will be held on Saturday December 13th at 5:00 p.m. with the tree lighting at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a visit from **Santa**. Afterwards, The **Maltese Center Christmas Cocktail Party** will take place. This is free to members and \$25 to non members.

Another Bingo will be held in the Lower Hall at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday December 14th.

The **New Year's Eve Party** takes place on Wednesday, December 31st and is open to people of all ages.



ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta in Toronto

The European Union Film Festival (EUFF) was held at the Ottawa Art Gallery, Alma Duncan Salon, 10 Daly Avenue, Level 3, from November 14th until 29th. The Maltese comedy *Ciao Ciao* was screened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7th.

Malta Band Club

The **Friday Night Dinner** on October 17th featured striploin steak, baked potato and vegetables.

The **Children's Halloween Party** took place on Sunday, October 26th.

A **Luncheon & Social** was held on Wednesday, October 29th. (See page 23.)

A **Memorial Service** was conducted on Sunday, November 9th.

A **Candlelight Concert** was held on Saturday, November 22nd. (See December issue.)

The **Children's Christmas Party** will take place on Sunday, December 7th.

The **Annual Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 13th. There will be music during and after dinner via the DJ.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** will take place on Wednesday, December 31st.



Lehen Malti

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

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

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

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **Bus Trip** to **Casino Rama** took place on Saturday, October 18th.

The **Halloween Dinner Party** was held on Saturday, October 25th. (See page 23.)

A Memorial Service was held on Friday, November 14th.

A **Bus Trip** to the **Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday, November 22nd.

The **Christmas Dinner Dance** will be held on Saturday, December 6th.

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Sunday, December 7th.

Another **Bus Trip** to the **Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th.

The **Children's Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday, December 8th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

The 9:15 a.m. **Weekday Masses** on Wednesdays and Fridays and the 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Masses** are in **Maltese** and in **English**.

Etnika performed in the parish hall on the evening of Saturday, November 7th. (See page 19.)

The **Annual Seniors' Christmas Celebration** will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, December 14th.



Gulbiena Seeds were available for purchase beginning Saturday, November 8th at the back of the church or from the parish office during office hours for \$5.00 per bag.

The **7:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Mass** will be in both English and Maltese.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance** for people of all ages will be held on Wednesday, December 31st. There will be a **seven-course meal**. Music will be by a **DJ** and the evening will feature **Canadian singer/songwriter Pierina Cincinnato**.

The **10:30 a.m. Mass** on Thursday, January 1, 2026 will be in Maltese.

London

This year's **Memorial Mass** was held at **Holy Family Mausoleum, St. Peter's Cemetery**, on Tuesday, October 28th. (See page 23.)

The **Tuesday, November 11th (Remembrance Day) Luncheon** took place at the **Swiss Chalet** on Wonderland Road South. (See page 34.)

The **Christmas Luncheon** will take place on Friday, December 5th at the Swiss Chalet on Clarke Road.

Windsor**Malta United Society**

Charlie Bonnici, an outstanding member of the Club and community, passed away on Saturday, December 13th. He will be sadly missed.

An **Adult Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 20th. Tickets are \$50 per person and only 50 are being sold.



THE COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

The 17th Annual meeting of the Council Of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) took place on October 8-9, in Malta. Council members from countries around the world gathered together to meet with members of the Ministry. Several topics were discussed and among them Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg mentioned a new Working Holiday for Youths of Maltese Descent, ages 18 to 30. Interested students will be able to apply for this special visa and wonderful opportunity.

This initiative, due to roll out in January 2026, will enable individuals to live and work in Malta, all the while being familiarized with the Maltese culture, history and ancestry. More information to follow.

During our stay we met with H.E. Myriam Spiteri Debono, President of Malta, at the San Anton Palace. Her Excellency encouraged all CMLA Council members to continue to strengthen the ties that bind the diaspora to our homeland, Malta, which will enable the Maltese culture to thrive. To read more about our visit with Her Excellency visit:

<https://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2025-10-10/local-news/Presidentmeets-members-of-the-Council-for-Maltese-Living-Aboard-6736273846>



Deputy Prime Minister Ian Borg with members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad



**Her Excellency Myriam Spiteri Debono
with members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad and Ministry**

USA Council Members

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Writers: There are many opportunities where young aspiring writers of Maltese descent can have their writings published. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing, studying communication or journalism, please contact Louis Vella, our Hon Consul General at malteseconsulate@yahoo.com.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Frank Scicluna, Editor of the Maltese E-Newsletter, *The Journal for Maltese Living Abroad*, Australia, for the details outlining the Council of Maltese Living Abroad.

(See also page 40.)

THE CREDIT VALLEY FREE-MO GROUP HOLD A TWO-DAY EVENT AT THE MALTA BAND CLUB

Malta Band Club



We would like to thank the Credit Valley Free-Mo model railroad club for bringing a unique event to the Malta Band Club.

Getting set up on Friday, October 17th.



Several people made their way to the MBC over the two-day period to learn more about this very interesting hobby. Members from the Credit Valley Free-Mo group were eager to answer questions and explain many aspects of their organization and their passion for the craft. Children were given the opportunity to operate the trains under the guidance of CVFM members.



This was a very successful event for both organizations and we sincerely hope that the Credit Valley Free-Mo group returns to the Malta Band Club for future events. WELL DONE!

(See also page 1.)

THE PASSING OF GEORGE DEBONO

Dan Brock

George Debono passed away peacefully at his home in Toronto on Thursday, October 16th. He was 89 years of age.

The son of Carmelo and Maria Dolores (Farrugia) Debono, he was born on December 1, 1935 in Qormi, Malta and had six siblings: Carmen, Michael, Leli, Silvia, Gina, and Agnes.

After his marriage to the former Mary Attard and the birth of their son Charlie, he immigrated to Toronto in 1964 and settled in the Junction. Mary and Charlie soon followed.

Three other children—Adam, Christopher and Samatha—were born in Canada.

George was devoted to his family and valued his Maltese heritage. His hobbies consisted of woodworking in his garage, fishing, cooking and horse racing.



His funeral service was held at the Cardinal Funeral Home in Toronto on Monday, October 20th.



THE PASSING OF CHARLES DEBONO

Dan Brock

Charles Debono passed away in Gardon City, Michigan on Wednesday, November 5th at the age of 95.

He is believed to have been the Carmel Debono, a single man, age 19, who immigrated to Detroit on board the Dutch-owned S.S. *Veendam* in January-February 1950, from Southampton, England.



He gave his date of birth as April 27, 1930 and his name as both Carmel Joseph Debono and Charles Joseph Debono upon becoming a naturalized citizen on February 2, 1954.

Charles sailed for Malta, by way of New York and Naples, on board the *Saturnia* in April-May 1954.

It is believed that sometime after arriving back in Malta he married Mary Borg.

Charles brought his bride to Michigan by plane in August of 1954.

We find the couple living in Dearborn in the late 1950s and Charles employed as an assembler at the Ford Motor Company. Later, the family lived in Dearborn Heights.

Charles and Mary were to have four children: Charles, Jr.; John; and Ron.

The Funeral Mass for Charles was celebrated at The Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn on Saturday, November 8th



He is survived by his wife, their four children and their spouses, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. "Charlie" was described as a loyal and dedicated member of the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn.

SPIRO GRECH RETIRES

Malta Band Club

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a good friend of the Malta Band Club and a former member of the Malta Band that many of you are sure to know. Spiro Grech was a member and committee member of the Malta Band Club during the early, formative years of the MBC. He was also an alto saxophone player with the Malta Band for many years.

Spiro and his wife Angela made the decision to leave Canada and relocate their family to Malta in the early 1990s. Spiro became involved with the Imperial Band Club in Mellieha, Malta and continued as a musician with the Imperial Band.

Spiro has recently made the decision to hang up his saxophone and retire from playing with the Imperial Band. We are certain that he will remain active with the Imperial Band Club going forward. On behalf of all the members and friends of the Malta Band Club and the Malta Band, we wish Spiro all the best in his future endeavours.



FAMILY BINGO AND PASTA DINNER**Evelyn Healey Simmons**

The Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco held its family bingo and pasta dinner on Saturday, October 18th.





My grandbabies with my mom











HOSTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BANK OF VALLETTA

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

It was a pleasure hosting Bank of Valletta's CEO Kenneth Farrugia and COO Ernest Agius at the Embassy of Malta to the US where Embassy staff had the opportunity to learn more about BOV's diverse work. CEO Farrugia and COO Agius presented Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb with a donation of books for the Maltese Library that can be found at the Embassy.

The Embassy would sincerely like to thank Bank of Valletta plc for its support 🇲🇹



EIGHTH EU-BAHAMAS POLITICAL DIALOGUE

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

The High Commissioner to the Bahamas Godfrey Xuereb joined 13 other EU Ambassadors at the 8th EU-Bahamas Political Dialogue which was co-chaired by the EU Representative for the Bahamas, Dr Erja Askola, and the Bahamas Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Frederick Mitchell. The meeting was held to celebrate 50 years of cooperation between The Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the European Union MTBS.



**H.E. SOMERS FARKAS:
AMBASSADOR OF THE US TO MALTA**
Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb had the pleasure of hosting H.E. Somers Farkas, who was to take up the role as Ambassador of the US to Malta. It was an honour to welcome H.E. Farkas to the Embassy in Washington, D.C. whereby Ambassador Xuereb presented her with a plaque signifying 60 years of Diplomatic Relations between Malta and the US which were marked in 2024 🇲🇹🇺🇸

The Embassy sincerely wishes H.E. Farkas the best of luck with this prestigious role 🍀



**KANTERA PERFORMS
AT THE KENNEDY CENTRE IN
WASHINGTON, DC.**

Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America

The special guests performed at [The Kennedy Center](https://www.kantera.com.mt/) for our Malta Day 2025 Concert on the 6th of November were none other than the band members from Kantera 🏆🎵🎹

[Kantera](https://www.kantera.com.mt/) is a Maltese fusion folk band formed in 2020. Their mission is to revive and modernise Malta's rich musical heritage through a dynamic blend of traditional instruments and contemporary soundscapes. The name Kantera is composed of two Maltese words, joined together (Kant-Era), with 'kant' meaning 'singing' in Maltese symbolising singing across eras.

<https://www.kantera.com.mt/>
Special thanks to the Arts Council Malta.



ETNIKA ON CANADIAN TOUR

Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

The High Commission is pleased to announce our collaboration with the Maltese band [Etnika](#). This initiative celebrates Malta's rich cultural heritage and aims to strengthen cultural ties between Malta and Canada through music.



As part of the Cultural Diplomacy Fund supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta, Etnika toured parts of Canada this November, bringing their unique blend of traditional Maltese folk and contemporary music to the following venues:

- 6 November 20:00 – Small World Centre, Toronto, ON



On a street in Toronto

- 7 November 19:30 – St. Paul the Apostle Church Hall, Toronto, ON



- 8 November 14:30 – Ottawa, ON



With H.E. Mark Pace
High Commissioner of Malta in Canada



- 9 November 20:00 – La Sala Rossa, Montreal, QC



Etnika has played a pivotal role in reviving Maltese folk music over the past 25 years. They toured extensively representing Malta and performed internationally in over 15 countries. Their unique sound blends traditional instruments, with contemporary, pan Mediterranean musical elements, offering a dynamic and engaging performance, broadening people's perception of their own musical identity.

We invite you to explore the following links to learn more about Etnika:

- <https://www.instagram.com/etnikamalta/?hl=en>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf8Lzif4-rrWau1_698mWlq

We also wish to thank [The Maltese Canadian Cultural Association](#) for all their assistance in Toronto and [Visit Malta](#) for their support.



** Editor's note: Some of the text has been changed and photos from Facebook added.*



A FEW WORDS ABOUT ONE OF THE MALTESE-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

Dan Brock

Carmen Vella Orton has introduced us to the Maltese Heritage Association of the San Francisco Bay Area on pages 21-22 of this issue.

This Association has a website at mhasfbayarea.org which has an extensive overview of all things Maltese as well as the group's events.

There is a cultural section covering Maltese history and heritage topics, a genealogy section and a photo gallery highlighting all of its events throughout the years. There is even a recipe section with all sorts of recipes contributed by Maltese cooks and bakers.

It also has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=maltese%20heritage%20association>.

After reading Carmen's article, take the time to check these sites.

THE MALTESE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Carmen Vella Orton

The Maltese Heritage Association of the San Francisco Bay Area (MHA) is a small group of Maltese-Americans who organized in 2012 and whose mission is to recognize and promote the traditions and culture of the Maltese-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. We were formally incorporated in 2015 as a 501(c)3 educational/charitable organization. We host, participate and contribute to cultural and community events and charitable organizations in an effort to provide the Bay Area community and beyond with a greater understanding of the contributions, history and values of the Maltese people. We have donated to many worthy charities over the years, including the California Wildfire Relief Fund, Maui Food Bank, Homes for Our Troops, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Tunnel to Towers (an organization that helps survivors and families of 9/11), as well as other humanitarian efforts.

Our events include holding an annual Classic Car Show event in May where more than 100 classic cars are displayed.



Lot overview of 2025 car show



Group Shot



Best in Show

A Maltese food truck, For the Love of Malta, offers pastizzi and several other Maltese culinary delights to anxiously awaiting customers.



For the Love of Malta Truck

The MHA organizes a very popular Wine Country bus trip in the month of September to commemorate Victory Day (Il-Vitorija), a special holiday celebrated in Malta.



**Joe, Louis, Lillian 2025 Wine Trip
Consul General Louis Vella in center**



Asthete Winery Group Table



Cat and Cathy, co-chairs of wine trip

At this year's wine event Hon Consul General of Malta in the SF Bay Area, Louis Vella, provided our guests with a talk about the significance of Victory Day and gave a most informative overview of Maltese history.

The MHA supports and participates, along with other Bay Area Maltese organizations, on the Malta Day Planning Committee.



The Planning Committee

The committee presents the Maltese community with a beautiful and thoughtfully organized annual Malta Day Gala dinner event in September. This year's event was another successful evening enjoyed by all attendees.



The color guard



Head table

REMEMBERING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED AT HOLY FAMILY MAUSOLEUM

Dan Brock

More than 30 members and friends of the Maltese community of London and area gathered in Holy Family Mausoleum at St. Peter's Cemetery in London, Ontario, on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 28th, to remember our departed family members and friends.

As was the case last year, a table was set aside for photos of those who had recently passed away.



Elsa Zammit

The recitation of the Rosary, led by Elsa Zammit, was followed by Joyce Stenson reading out the names of our loved ones who have passed away since this time last year.

Fr. Murray Sample was the celebrant of the Memorial Mass and its homilist. Joe Borg was our reader and Jean Testa gave the prayer intentions. A collection was taken up by Melrose Paquet.

We are grateful to the cemetery staff for making the necessary arrangements on our behalf.



LUNCHEON & SOCIAL

Malta Band Club

Approximately 80 people enjoyed a delicious lunch on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 29th at the Malta Band Club. Special thanks to John Azzopardi, Leli Mercieca and all the MBC support staff for organizing another great luncheon.

The Club has a number of events scheduled as we enter the Christmas season. Please spread the word about these events to your family and friends. We hope to see you at these events and thank you in advance for your support to the MBC!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Mary Ann Piscopo



The Melita Soccer Club held its Halloween dinner party on Saturday, October 25th.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY**Tanya Caruana**

An adults-only Halloween costume party was held at the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit on the night of Friday, October 31st. We had a great turnout. 🍂



Congratulations to our first, second and third prize costume contest winners!!!



**“Egyptian god and goddess,”
2nd prize winners**



“Day of the Dead”, 1st prize winners



**Peggy Bundy of *Married with Children*
3rd prize winner**



I can still walk a straight line. Right?







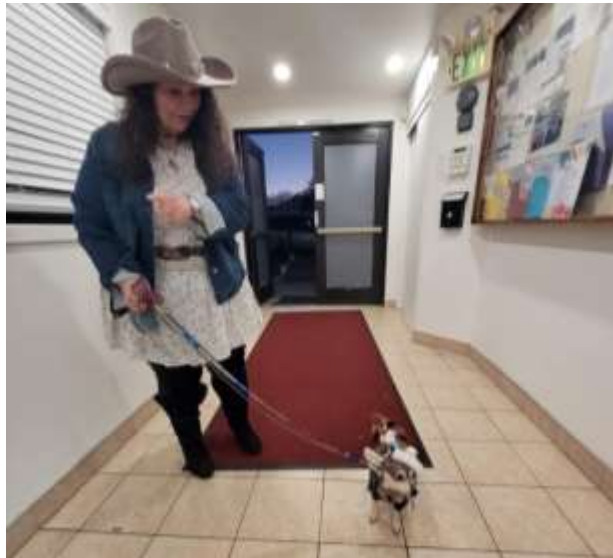
Now you see
why this was an adults only party. Lol.



COUNTRY AND WESTERN DANCE

Rita Borg

A country and western dance was held at the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco on the evening of Saturday, November 1st. It was a wonderful event with good food and great company.











Thank you to all the members and guests who came to support the event, and a special thank you to the entertainment committee and volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success.



COOKIE EXCHANGE AND PIZZA**Rita Borg**

The women's social group held a cookie exchange and had pizza at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco on Tuesday, November 11th.





The women enjoyed pizza and exchanged homemade cookies prepared by all who attended.



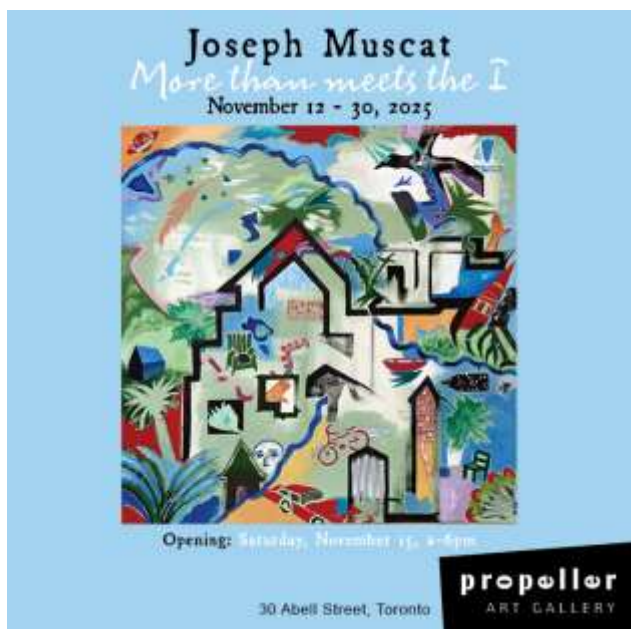




JOSEPH MUSCAT'S LATEST ART EXHIBIT**Dan Brock**

Joseph Muscat is no stranger to the pages of this newsletter. He was first introduced to this newsletter in the October 2029 issue

He is currently having another exhibit of his art at The Propeller Art Gallery, in Toronto. This exhibit began on November 12th and will end on the 30th.



Joseph Muscat is a multi-disciplinary Toronto artist. In this most recent series of paintings titled *More than meets the I*, pun intended, as the title might suggest, the work represents a visual exploration of the various hidden depths, situations and complexities of our realities today. With our constant exposure to Artificial Intelligence, Chat GPT and Deepfake, where truth is never a given, one should always question. The colourful profusion of images, some brush-painted and others stencilled, swirling against various backdrops and markings, aim to create a sense of uncertainty. Muscat's iconic and omnipresent "cabin" visible in each of his works, is a symbolic place of refuge one might seek amid this turmoil and confusion.

Mirror Mirror On The Wall - 2024

Acrylic on canvas

24 x 24 inches

**Enough Said - 2023**

Acrylic on canvas

26 x 24 inches



OUR NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Dan Brock

On the morning of Tuesday, November 11th (Remembrance Day in Canada) Londoners woke up to some 27 cm. (10 ½ ins.) of snow. This meant clearing driveways and cleaning off vehicles as well as navigating unploughed subdivisions for many of us.



Helen Ditchfield, Lisa Patton, Mike Ditchfield, Terry Rogers and Carol Hilton



Dan & Loretta Brock, Joe & Tessie Mallia and Sandra Austin (standing)



Deo Catania, Charles & Rose Micallef, Joe Gall, and Mannie Micallef

As a consequence, the number of Maltese Canadians of London and area, together with spouses and friends was down from what was anticipated for our lunch at the Swiss Chalet in southwest London. We were anticipating more than 40. Nonetheless, over 25 were present, some coming in from as far as Nairn, St. Thomas and Port Bruce. Like London's main streets and bus routes, the highways had been ploughed.



Vicky Van Der Heyden, Sandy Flay and Herman Van Der Heyden



Tony & Carmen Cauchi

Those who made it out to the November luncheon seemed to enjoy the meal and the opportunity of once more getting together.

Our Christmas luncheon, to be held on Friday, December 5th, at London's Marconi Club on Clarke Road, promises to be a "full house." Already, we have our limit of 70 and a few on "standby."

Given the age of the majority of us and the uncertainty of the weather, cancellations are to be expected and those currently on "standby" are almost guaranteed that there "will be room at the inn" on the afternoon of the luncheon.

There is a set price for the buffet meal which will include dessert. All non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks will be extra.

It is anticipated that we will be able to get in a few games of bingo, following the luncheon. In addition to this, there will be an added feature.

A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS**Margaret Muscat Purdy**

Three different family gatherings were celebrated at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on the evening of Friday, November 14th. Everyone had a great time and all enjoyed the Maltese spirit as one family.



Celebrating Tom Muscat's 97th birthday



HOLIDAY MARKET & CRAFT FAIR

Rita Borg

This year's Holiday Market & Craft Fair was held at the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco on Saturday, November 15th.



There were Thanksgiving and Christmas wreaths, wall hanging ornaments, flora arrangements, hostess gifts, painted boxes and jars, handmade scented candles, handmade olive oil soaps, Christmas decorations, keychains, bookmarks, swags, decorative mesh Christmas trees, handmade knitted items, homemade Italian biscotti with six flavors to choose from, Maltese cookies and so much more.







**THE PASSING OF ANOTHER POST-WAR
“PIONEER” TO CANADA:
JANE PORTER - 1926-2025***

Dan Brock

Jane Rose Porter passed away on Friday, November 21, 2025 at Twin Lakes Terrace, Sarnia, Ontario at the age of 99.

She was born at home, with the help of a neighbourhood midwife, in Senglea, Malta, on November 7, 1926, the third of 10 children of John and Carmela (Sant'Angelo) Farrugia.



The family moved to the countryside during the Second World War which saw their home, John's menswear shop and their parish church in Senglea destroyed.

In May 1948, Jane married George Stephen Porter. George immigrated to Canada with the second wave of post war Maltese immigrants, on board the *Vulcania* that June. His older brother Joseph Porter had come out with the initial group, on board the *Marine Perch*, in May.

Jane joined her husband in London, Ontario in October 1948, having come out on board the *Radnik*, with her sister-in-law Adelaide "Dada" (Tagliaferro) Porter and Joseph and Adelaide's four children.



Photo on Jane's 1948 passport

Jane and John's first residence in London was on the north side Maple Street (now Dufferin Avenue), just east of Talbot. This house later became the site of the popular Latin Quarter Restaurant. By 1952, they were living on the south side of Oxford Street, west of Adelaide, with their first-born daughter, Mabel.

Their first house was purchased on the northwest corner of Hale and Burslem streets in 1953. Their second daughter Brenda was born that same year.

John was a carpenter for the Canadian National Railways (now the CN) and was transferred to Sarnia. There the third of the "Porter Girls" was born in 1960.

Jane, a stay-at-home mom, was a talented knitter. "Her seamstress skills soon took her out into the community. Besides making clothes for all her girls, she worked as a seamstress at a downtown menswear shop. This talent brought many requests for clothing alterations from friends and neighbours. Beyond that, she became a popular school crossing guard, remembered to this day by the children she befriended.



"Elections Canada soon caught her attention and there was never an election that she didn't participate in. Jane remained dedicated to her church through involvement with St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League, earning her Fifty Year Pin, working as treasurer, and organizing church bazaars. She was a self-made woman."

Jane's mother, Carmela, came to Canada as a widow and lived to be three months short of her 107th birthday. John died in 2010. Seven of Jane's siblings—Albert, Jessie, Steve, Peggs, Maria, Frank and Sid—also predeceased her.

Jane is survived by her three daughters, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as her two siblings, Evelyn and Edward.

Services were held for Jane at the D.J. Robb Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Sarnia on Wednesday, November 26th. Interment took place at Sarnia's Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery.

* Heavy reliance was made on Jane Porter's obituary posted by D.J. Robb Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

THE PASSING OF A GIANT: MARK CARUANA (1946-2025)

Dan Brock

Mark Caruana of New South Wales, Australia, passed away on Monday, November 24, 2025 at the age of 79. Born in Sliema, Malta on June 18, 1946, he is survived by his wife Antoinette, his children Adrian, Christine, Marise and their families.



His death is deeply felt not only by his loved ones but literally by the Maltese community worldwide. Many are the tributes which appeared on line.

"A Pioneer and Community Champion for the Maltese Community."

"A huge loss for the Maltese community."

"Mark's legacy will live on, such a dedicated, intelligent person who contributed immensely to many in the Maltese community in NSW and beyond."

"Mark was a community pioneer for the Maltese community in welfare and a respected Migration expert."

"Mark. a man of good example who worked tirelessly for the Maltese community throughout the years."

Dr. Charles Farrugia, Director of the National Archives of Malta wrote:

"The passing away of Mark Caruana brings to a close a chapter of volunteering at the National Archives. Mark was the first 'virtual' volunteer and although he lived in Australia, he processed virtually tens of thousands of passport applications that made possible their online access. Over the years Mark became a friend who supported me in anything to do with migration, especially to Australia. He even took the trouble to interview me about my contribution to the Maltese archives sector. While recalling his memory I convey my condolences to his family."

Although we lived half a world away from one another and never met in person, I considered Mark a dear friend and colleague.

We were introduced several years ago, via email, by Dr. Maurice N. Cauchi. Mark's name appears several times in Cauchi's 2006 publication *Maltese Achievers in Australia*. On September 9, 2020, Mark was invested with the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) *"For service to the Maltese community of New South Wales."*

Mark generously shared with me his files on those of Maltese birth or blood whose names and data he had compiled from his herculean work based on examining passenger lists open to the public of ships and planes arriving in Canada and the United States. It was he who encouraged me to expand my interest in the Maltese Diaspora beyond just Brantford and London, Ontario!

Over the years he also shared his findings based on his aforementioned processing of *"virtually tens of thousands of passport applications"*.

Mark was my "go to" person when I needed information on individuals who had migrated to Canada or the United States and, recently, on the Maltese diaspora in Brazil.

It was Mark who brought my attention to the shipping lists, as well as the passport applications, to be found at the National Archives of Malta. Many an hour I have spent pouring over these on my visits there. Through Mark I have been introduced to several staff members, including Dr. Farrugia, who have been most helpful in my research. Indeed, Dr Farrugia, went out of his way to pay a visit to London, Ontario, a few years ago, when on a speaking engagement in Washington, DC and then a visit to family in the Greater Toronto Area.

Mark and I collaborated on several articles which appeared in this newsletter and he also submitted stand alone articles as well.

When I launched this newsletter in 2019, Mark volunteered to be one of its copy editors. Our last correspondence was on September 4th of this year when he submitted some corrections for the August issue.

The funeral service for Mark was held at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Marayong, NSW on December 1st. Interment took place in the Garden of Peace, Pinegrove Memorial Park, in nearby Minchinbury.

Incidentally, the Funeral Mass for the husband of Mary Camilleri, a subscriber to this newsletter, was in the same church in 2024 and Mark was present for this.

Mary is a subscriber to this newsletter as is Charles Said-Vassallo who was the first to notify me of Mark's passing. Rest in peace dear friend.

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 4Y5
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
giovanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

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

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

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

SOME MALTESE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA**Embassy of Malta to the United States of America**

2017 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008
Phone: 202-462-3611
Fax: 202-387-5470
maltaembassy.washington@gov.mt

Consulate General of Malta in New York

244 st 48th Street, Level 1,
New York City, NY 10017
646-274-6896
646-274-6897
General inquiries: consul.newyork@gov.mt
Official correspondence:
maltconsulate.newyork@gov.mt

High Commission of Malta in Canada

275 Slater Street, Suite 401, Ottawa, ON



maltahighcommission.ottawa@gov.mt



missions.foreign.gov.mt/high-commissions/Canada

Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

Sun Life Financial Centre
3300 Bloor Street West Suite 3060
10th Floor – CentreTower
Etobicoke M8X 2X3
Toronto, ON
Phone: 416-207-0922 416-207-0989
Fax: 416-207-0986
maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt

Council of Maltese Living Abroad

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) is a formal body established by Malta to represent and engage with Maltese communities abroad, with activities including fostering collaboration and addressing community needs. In 2025, the Maltese Welfare NSW reported on new regional committee appointments and collaboration efforts with the Maltese government. Additionally, the CMLA's official website Maltese Living Abroad (MLA) archives show posts in May 2025 detailing meetings and announcements for Maltese communities worldwide.

What is the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)?

- **Purpose:**
The CMLA was established by the Maltese Government to represent and engage with the Maltese diaspora.
- **Structure:**
It is headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, includes a secretary, and has 15 members, all of whom must be of Maltese nationality.
- **Mandate:**
The council is tasked with understanding and addressing the needs and interests of Maltese people living outside of Malta.
Activities in 2025:
- **Regional Collaboration:**
In July 2025, the Maltese Welfare NSW announced efforts to improve collaboration between the NSW Council of Maltese Living Abroad and the Government of Malta, with regional committee appointments.
- **Official Engagements:**
The CMLA's official website shows that official meetings with the President of Malta and the Deputy Prime Minister were held in late 2024 and discussions were ongoing in 2025.
- **Maltese as a Foreign Language Program:**
In May 2025, online Maltese as a Foreign Language courses were offered to the diaspora, providing an opportunity for Maltese living abroad to learn the language.
How to Find More Information:
- **Official Government Website:**
Visit the "Posts - Official Messages Archives - MLA" section of malteselivingabroad.gov.mt for official updates and messages.
- **Maltese Welfare NSW:**
For information specific to the Australian community, visit the Maltese Welfare NSW website.
- **Maltese E-Newsletters:**
Check ozmalta.com for the official Maltese community newsletter which features CMLA-related announcements.
Looking ahead, Dr Borg highlighted at the conference the importance of a dynamic, responsive, and future-focused Council, encouraging members to adopt an outward-looking approach and collaborate on shared challenges faced by Maltese communities globally.