

# MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Editor  
Frank Scicluna

## The journal of the Maltese Diaspora

maltesejournal@gmail.com

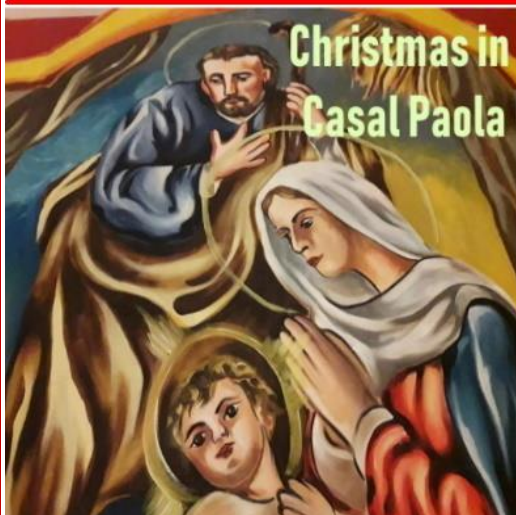


### MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN DIASPORA

A network of Australians who identify as having a Maltese heritage



'We must find innovative ways to keep the Maltese-Canadian community connected with Malta'



### Skola Maltija



### Australia

*Nimxu 'l Quddiem fl-Gherf*

Read report pages 7 and 8

COMMITMENT  
TOWARDS  
UNITY  
TRUTH  
AND JUSTICE

An Appeal of the  
Bishops of  
Malta and Gozo



The Great Siege of Malta took place in 1565 when the Ottoman Empire tried to invade the island of Malta, then held by the Knights Hospitaller and the Maltese people



Communications Office

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019  
130/2019**COMMITMENT TOWARDS UNITY, TRUTH AND JUSTICE****AN APPEAL BY THE BISHOPS OF MALTA AND GOZO**

As spiritual leaders of Catholics in Malta and Gozo, we Bishops wish to make an appeal that during these turbulent times we all seek to work together, with a calm sense of purpose, to promote truth and justice with charity and respect for one another.

We join His Excellency the President of the Republic Dr George Vella, in his appeal for unity. The difficult times we are going through should not exacerbate division. They challenge us to work together in a spirit of collaboration and for the greater good of Maltese society in general, so that our institutions may carry out their duty with due diligence and with impartiality.

As in every society, disagreement is inevitable. However, we are always called to express our legitimate opinions with respect for one another and with respect for the truth, without falling into the trap of hatred, lies and violence. Our appeal is that we, Maltese and Gozitans, seek the common good in a spirit of true loyalty to the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Malta.

The Advent Season reminds us that we are yearning for the coming of the One in whose “days may justice flourish, and peace abound” (Ps 72:7). We pray that our people’s passion for justice, truth and honesty, is expressed with respect towards each other, and with a strong rejection of violence, whether verbal or physical.

We impart our pastoral blessing on our beloved brothers and sisters, and all people of good will.

✠ **Charles J. Scicluna**  
Archbishop of Malta

✠ **Mario Grech**  
Apostolic Administrator of Gozo

✠ **Joseph Galea-Curmi**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Malta



## MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN DIASPORA

A network of Australians who identify as having a Maltese heritage

The Purpose of the Maltese Australian Diaspora (MAD) is to create a national network of Australians who identify as having a Maltese heritage, and connect those who may have never had an opportunity to associate with an existing Maltese community or cultural organisation. By establishing connection with second, third and future generations of Maltese descendants, MAD provides opportunities to share in the

wealth of culture and community support that their Maltese heritage brings.

Our mission is simply to connect like-minded people with networks, subsequently preserving Maltese connection to culture. MAD's intention is to work side by side with all existing Maltese organisations and help unify our collective goal to preserve Maltese culture in the current era. We believe that ALL members of the diaspora are equally important and that by working together, we have the potential to create strong business and community networks with all who share our ancestral connection.

For further information please contact Edwidge Borg: [edwidgeborg@hotmail.com](mailto:edwidgeborg@hotmail.com) or Shane Delia: [shane@deliagroup.com.au](mailto:shane@deliagroup.com.au)



## FRANCESCA RAUSI, A MALTESE MODEL WINS HER FIRST MODELLING COMPETITION

• By Thea Formosa

The Miss Junior Christmas competition went down over the weekend and Francesca Rausi stole the show (even though we had no doubt she would!)

She went home with the title of Miss Junior Christmas, making her parents, and everyone else watching, super proud.

Merely a few days ago, we heard of Francesca making it to a UK news portal, where they wrote:

This four-year-old girl is fast becoming a catwalk star. Francesca Rausi, 4, who has Down's syndrome, looked in her element as she walked the runway during a fashion show for disabled models in Malta.

Well, Metro had it spot on, as merely a few days after,



Francesca won her first modelling competition.

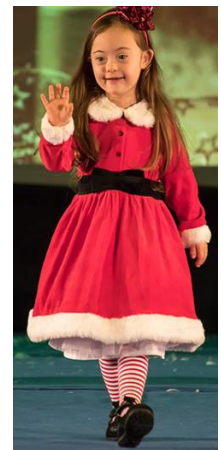
Her mother, Michelle Rausi, shares with Bay:

"From the morning she was telling me let's go model and when I see her on the catwalk, with that confidence and so happy, I feel so proud. When Ivan called her name as the winner of her category, that had to be the cherry on the cake. She was so happy!

I can't explain the satisfaction I get when I see her achieving so much and breaking barriers

She is breaking barriers for other children like her."

Francesca, we hope you keep snatching those trophies, and we can't wait to hear about your next achievement.



## How To Celebrate The New Year 2020 In Malta

A New Year to remember on the island of Malta. Recently, New Year's Eve in Malta has become synonymous with thrilling fireworks and bustling street parties which, unlike in many countries, are still free of charge. However, these massively popular events are actually new developments in the country's history, having only been established within the last few years. Before, celebrating the New Year in Malta was a more casual affair, spent with family and often closely linked with food. That's not to say that food and family doesn't still play an important role – it most certainly does, with restaurants often packed out with generations of Maltese relations. It's just that now there's even more options for seeing in the New Year with a bang. Whether you plan to indulge in classic New Year's Eve staples like Imbuljuta tal-Qastan, catch the Valletta fireworks or fancy staying closer to home with a range of delicious dinners and hip happenings at one of the Corinthia hotels.

**INDULGE IN A TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER** Let's face it, you're probably going to need a decent meal to set you up for celebrating New Year in Malta. Luckily, Maltese Christmas and New Year's Eve dishes – with their convergence of North African, Sicilian and British influences – tends towards the hearty. Expect staples like brodu tat-tigieġa (chicken broth), imqarrun il-forn (baked macaroni) and tigieġa bil-patata il-forn (roast chicken and potatoes. For dessert, how about a traditional festive honey ring – known as a qagħaq tal-ghasel – and, of course, a cup of strong coffee. Now you're set.

**WATCH THE FIREWORKS SHOW IN VALLETTA** Considering that the history of pyrotechnics displays in Malta stretches back to the time of the Order of the Knights of St John, it's no surprise that this show has become the focal point of the national end of year celebrations, drawing huge crowds at key spots across the city. St George's Square and the Valletta Waterfront are popular gathering points, and great places to take the temperature of the famed Maltese party spirit, as locals, expats and tourists come together for the countdown. There's a free concert, too – last year jazz and brass bands met fusion DJs for a piece of truly inclusive scene setting.

**JOIN THE STREET PARTY IN FLORIANA** The fortified town of Floriana, just outside Valletta, has New Year celebrations that are so good they bring the town to a standstill. So, now you can understand why the town closes off St Anne's, one of Malta's busiest streets, for what is essentially one massive, buzzing street party. Our tip? Head down early and soak up the atmosphere, then move to the largest square in Malta, the Granaries, for the concert.

**PUT DOWN THE CHAMPAGNE, AND TRY A MUG OF IMBULJUTA TAL-QASTAN** Another traditional festive staple is the Imbuljuta, a warming concoction that's traditionally enjoyed on New Year's Eve in Malta. The drink – you can think of it as essentially a luxe hot chocolate – is made from dried chestnuts, cocoa, tangerine rind, cloves and sugar and tastes like the last dregs of Christmas, which it kind of is. It's also just the thing to fortify you for the evening ahead, as the usually mild daytime temperatures take a turn for the chill.

### **PARTY INTO NEW YEAR'S DAY AT ST. JULIANS AND PACEVILLE**

The fireworks are spent, the street parties are winding down, and people are filing home to sleep off their hangovers. Now's the time for the truly dedicated to step up – this is New Year's Eve after all. If you want to dance your way into the new year, the best place to go is St Julians, where the island's nightclubs are generally concentrated. It's generally agreed that the stamina-rich club hop their way through Paceville, St Julian's dedicated clubbing and bar district, although on New Year's Eve this might prove a little difficult. Many of the NYE events are ticketed and prone to selling out in advance, so be sure to do your research first.

### **REVIVE SOME LOST TRADITIONS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY . . . OR NOT**

Unfortunately, many Maltese traditions have been eroded by time. It was once customary to give gifts of money to small children on the first day of New Year in Malta. This was called l-istrina, and was largely lost when the British influence popularized giving presents on Christmas Day. Likewise, superstitious people would often spread white lime on their thresholds to symbolise purity and a new beginning. However, nowadays you might get a few askance looks since this superstition generally died out in the 1930s.



## [Vale Victor Borg, an advocate for migrants and ethnic communities in Australia](#)



Victor Borg. Photo: Mark Avellino

Facebook Twitter: [@NeosKosmos](#) Instagram

Victor Borg AM, Barrister, Chairman Maltese Community Council of Victoria, former Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council, and author of significant policy documents died last week after a long illness.

Victor Borg was great, not in power which he wielded, great not in influence which he had, great not in ambition which he surpassed, but great as an advocate for the migrants and ethnic communities.

Between 1991 and 1997 Victor Borg was Chairman of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria ECCV. He ensured that the ECCV was at the forefront of national and state based discussions on multiculturalism and service delivery. His intellect was at equal measure with his charm as well as his oft-expressed wrath at any injustice.

Victor was bipartisan in the application of the ECCV's charter. It mattered not whether a politician was a conservative or a labor, they often wielded to Victor's advocacy, especially after gritting his teeth in annoyance.

Born in Gzira, Malta, Borg's family immigrated to Australia in 1955 when he was aged 14. Educated at St Joseph's College, and the Lyceum College, Malta, and at the Marcelline and Taylors Colleges in Melbourne, he graduated Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from the University of Melbourne (1963), and was admitted to practice as Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria (1964). He pursued post-graduate studies in Law in London (1965-1966) and graduated as Master of Laws (LL.M) from the University of London, 1966.

His commitment to the community ensured him a number of honorary positions such as Honorary Consul for Republic of Malta; President of Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.; Chairperson, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; Member of the Victorian Law Foundation; Member of Chief Justices Advisory Committee on Ethnic Issues (Family Court) and many more.

He was involved in submissions and appearances at Senate Committees such as, the Needs of Ethnic Aged, Citizenship and Workplace Relations Bill 1996, as well as Federal Ministerial Consultations on Migrant Intake programs

Victor Borg authored and co-authored number of papers such as: "Migrants and the Criminal Justice System"; "Informed Consent - in relation to medical treatment of Non-English Speaking Background - The Right To Know", and more.

However, it was Victor's enthusiasm and work for the welfare of the Maltese community in Victoria, and his leadership of the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, encompassing more than 40 Maltese associations of every type and nature which endeared him to the Maltese community. He was instrumental

in promoting the Maltese language in Australia among the Maltese community lest it faded away and supported the broadcasting in Maltese on Ethnic radio 3ZZ, and strived with success to have the Maltese language taught at primary and secondary schools.

Victor Borg leaves behind a loving wife, Terry and three successful children Georgina, Laura and Ben.





# Christmas at the Fort

Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa

Friday 6 Dec 17.00 to 23.00 hrs  
 Saturday 7 Dec 09.00 to 23.00 hrs  
 Sunday 8 Dec 09.00 to 20.00 hrs

**FREE ADMISSION**  
 (last admission 30 minutes before closing time)

A programme of events, is available on our website [www.heritagemalta.org](http://www.heritagemalta.org) and on the Christmas at the Fort  event page.

Fort St Angelo  



## Milied f' Casal Paola

IL-ĠIMĠĦA 13 TA' DIĊEMBRU 2019  
 MIS-2.30PM - 10:00PM

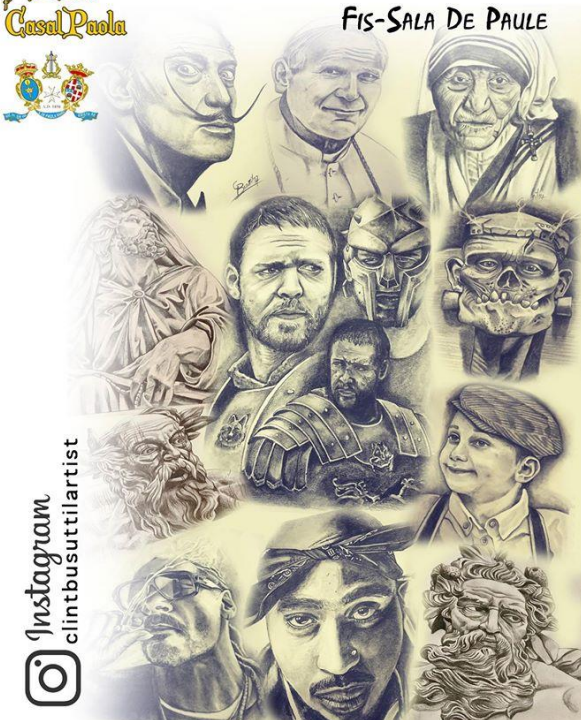
- ⇒ SUQ TAL-MILIED
- ⇒ PARATA TAL-MILIED
- ⇒ #WIENET MIFTUĦA SA TARD
- ⇒ NATTIVITA' MAGĦMULA MINN 'IL FUQ 2000 XEMĠA TUL IL-KORSIJA TAL-KNISJA PARROKJALI
- ⇒ KAMPNAR TAL-KNISJA MIFTUH GĦALL-PUBBLIKU
- ⇒ IKEL - XORB - KANT - ŻFIN U ĦAFNA AKTAR


DMFQQ G5 JEW IKTAR MILL-#WIENET MIT-8 TA' DIĊEMBRU SA' JUM L-ATTIVITA' U IDROL FIC-CANS LI TIRBAN BOSTA RIGALI MATUL L-ATTIVITA'.

Milied f' Casal Paola [www.rahalgdid.com](http://www.rahalgdid.com)

## WIRJA TA' TPENĠIJA BIL-LAPES

MINN CLINT BUSUTTI  
 FIS-SALA DE PAULE



 [clintbusuttiaartist](https://www.instagram.com/clintbusuttiaartist)



## Lehen Malti – Toronto - Canada

Lehen Malti offers the Maltese community 30 minutes of first-run language programming on a weekly basis, in a magazine-style format.





Nimxu 'l Quddiem fl-Gherf

## New Maltese Community Language Teachers Praised

By Cynthia Villar – Skola Maltija, Sydney

The maintenance and development of Maltese language and cultural understandings in New South Wales (NSW) is being strengthened and secured by a new wave of talented teachers who have recently settled in Australia. These community-minded teachers are native speakers of *il-Malti* (Maltese) with admirable academic backgrounds, having matriculated from the education system in Malta.

It was with great pride and honour that **Annemarie Theuma** was selected amongst a cohort of 321 teachers who graduated with a Certificate in Community Language Teaching to present an address at the **Community Languages Teaching Program Award Ceremony** at the University of Sydney's Great Hall on Sunday 27 October. Her address can be read below.

**Diane Camilleri** (nee Grima) and **Michelle Tanti** (nee Grima) were also recognised for both achieving a High Distinction in the Certificate in Community Language Teaching course. These teachers completed their studies by attending lectures on Sundays whilst teaching on Saturdays with Skola Maltija Sydney. Their dedication to the 60 contact hours of professional learning while juggling work and family commitments is admirable.



**Annemarie Theuma celebrates her graduation with husband, Navi, and daughters (L-R) Jasmine and Anaya at the University of Sydney.**



The NSW Department of Education in partnership with the University of Sydney's Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education (SICLE) funded the professional development of these teachers. Such courses not only build the capacity of community language teachers, but ultimately enhance the learning outcomes of students.

Yet, the accolades do not stop there. At the **NSW Federation of Community Language Schools (NSW FCLS) Annual Gala Dinner 2019**, held at Club Punchbowl on Saturday 23 November, two new Maltese Community Language Teachers were recognised for their first year of service. **Mrs Annemarie Theuma** and **Miss Beatrice Pace** received their New Community Language School Teacher Award in the presence of the Consul General of Malta for NSW, **Mr Lawrence Buhagiar**, and his wife, Mrs Rosianne Buhagiar.

In February this year, Annemarie successfully established both a primary and adult class at the George Cross Falcons Club, Cringila (90kms south of Sydney). She coordinates and teaches the Skola Maltija program in the Illawarra region. Beatrice started teaching with Skola Maltija Sydney in March. She ably leads the multi-level primary class at Cobbitty Public School (60kms south-west of Sydney). Previously, Beatrice worked for six years with the Ministry of Education and Employment in Malta as a Learning Support Educator.

**Annemarie Theuma and Beatrice Pace with their New Community Language Teacher Award.**

Other special guests included the Minister for Customer Service, **The Hon. Victor Dominello MP**; Shadow Minister for Skills and TAFE, Shadow Minister for Youth and Juvenile Justice, and Shadow Minister

Assisting on Multiculturalism, **Mr Jihad Dib MP**; CEO of Multicultural NSW, **Mr Joseph La Posta**; President of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools (NSW FCLS), **Ms Lúcia Johns**; Vice President of the NSW FCLS, **Dr Stepan Kerkyasharian AO**; and Executive Officer of the NSW FCLS, **Mr Michael Christodoulou**.

The Minister for Customer Service, **the Hon. Victor Dominello MP**, in his address said, “The most important thing you can teach your children is resilience through the maintenance of your language and culture. It is this identity which becomes their anchor.”

Shadow Minister Assisting on Multiculturalism, **Mr Jihad Dib MP**, added, “Our multiculturalism is something to celebrate because it is who we are. Community Languages Schools not only teach language, culture, history and heritage, but they teach pride. Never be ashamed of where you come from...we are better when we are together.”

The Prime Minister of Australia, **The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**, in his video message said, “Australia’s diverse linguistic capability is one of our greatest strengths. It helps keep communities connected and informed. It links us to the wider world and for many it is central to culture and identity.” He went on to say, “For more than forty years, the Federation has been championing the benefits of learning another language. You [sic] have done great work honouring multicultural Australia and helping to strengthen connections between people of different backgrounds. It is work worth celebrating.”

On the night, guests were also entertained by performances from a variety of Community Languages Schools.



Mr Lawrence Buhagiar (left) congratulates new Maltese Community Language Teachers (front centre), Miss Beatrice Pace and Mrs Annemarie Theuma along with Tony Pace-Feraud, Mary Pace-Feraud and Maria De Carlo from the Maltese Language School of NSW, and Anna

Cuschieri, Cynthia Villar and Jane Borg from Skola Maltija Sydney.

**POSTSCRIPT:** \_Community Languages Schools began in Australia in 1859. In NSW, over 36 000 students attend around 550 schools and are taught by almost 3 000 teachers in 62 different languages. Community Languages Schools such as **Skola Maltija Sydney** and the **Maltese Language School of NSW** are an important provider of language and culture education in Australia and rely on the dedication and hard work of communities, parents and teachers.

**As soon as I receive this Maltese Journal I read it from top to bottom. How amazing is the modern technology connecting us together – the Maltese living abroad. You amaze me with the variety of articles about Malta and the many communities around the world. I hope the authorities in Malta give you recognition for all the work you do for us all. Although we are living far away from our beloved Island of Malta we still love it and we are interested to know more about it. Luois DeBono - USA**



## MR AND MRS FRANK AND JOSIE SCICLUNA VISIT SYDNEY

### LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE – BLACKTOWN, NSW



Mrs Antoinette Caruana, the President of the La Valette Social Centre, and the committee welcomed Frank and Josie Scicluna to the Centre as their special guests. They attended Mass celebrated by Father Anthony Scerri O. Carm and afterwards they joined the senior citizens for lunch. Frank Scicluna, who is the Honorary Consul for Malta in South Australia, addressed the group at the packed hall and he conveyed the best wishes from the Maltese community of Adelaide and encouraged everyone to keep on supporting the committee in their efforts to keep the Centre the hub of the Maltese community of NSW. In attendance were Mr Emanuel Camilleri, the President of the Maltese Community Council, Mr. Greg Caruana, Mr Frank Zammit and Mr. Charles Micallef.



### St Dominic's Home for the Elderly

Mr and Mrs Scicluna paid a courtesy visit to St. Dominic's Home for the Elderly administered by the Dominican Sisters of Malta. They were welcomed by Sister Georgina Sultana OP. St Dominic's Home for the Elderly is a 50 bed, low-care facility with aging in place catering for all nationalities and all denominations; pensioners and non-pensioners. 70 per cent of its residents have Maltese heritage. It is well maintained, clean and offers comfortable and beautiful interior and exterior settings. Frank and Josie had the opportunity to speak with the residents who all praised the Sisters and staff for the outstanding care, love and support they receive.



Frank and Josie Scicluna had the pleasure of meeting Joe Borg, the director of Gday Maltaussies Show. They were accompanied by Mr Lino Vella, the former editor of The Maltese Herald. Mr. Borg interviewed Frank and he spoke about his journal *The Maltese e-Newsletter, the Journal of the Maltese Diaspora* which is read and enjoyed by thousands of Maltese scattered around the world. While thanking him for giving him the opportunity to participate in his popular program Frank wished him and his team every success in their future ventures.



Mr and Mrs Scicluna were also invited to attend the Seniors' Luncheon at the Maltese Community Centre of the George Cross Club at Wollongong NSW. They were given a tour of the Centre by Mr Louis Parnis, the President of the committee. They were impressed by all the murals and the memorabilia exhibited at the Centre. It's like a Maltese Museum. This vibrant association organises many activities for its members and the Maltese community of this region. The Centre provides Maltese language classes for children and adults as well as a well-equipped workshop which was opened 3 years ago to make toys for sick and disadvantage children in the area. The Sciclunas were very impressed with the number of attendees and volunteers and especially those who cooked the 'ravjul' in the beautiful kitchen. Mr. Parnis and the committee are also erecting four monuments at the premises to commemorate the Maltese ANZACS, the victims of the Sette Giugno, Joe Cassar – a Maltese pioneer in Illawarra and the Malta Lawn Bowls Group.



**WE ARE PROUD OF ALL THE MALTESE ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE WORLD FOR  
PRESERVING AND SHARING THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS  
OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**  
*The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad*



# Christmas

@  **IL-HAĠAR**  
HEART OF GOZO

1 December 2019 - 12 January 2020

## Temporary exhibitions

**Our Lady, Pinu and St George's**  
1 December - 12 January  
Ground Floor  
Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria

**Yuletide Philately**  
7 December - 6 January  
Level -1  
Gozo Philatelic Society

**Rusticulate**  
7 December - 6 January  
Levels -1, 1 and 2  
Bob Cardona

**Nativity Round Crib**  
13 December - 6 January  
Level -1  
Carmel Farrugia

**Nativity Crib**  
22 December - 6 January  
Ground Floor  
Bejta Artisan Gallery

## Lunchtime Concerts

**Visual and Performing Arts  
School Ensemble in  
Christmas Mood**  
7 December - 11.30am  
Ground Floor

**The Festive Brass Recital**  
14 December - 11.30am  
Ground Floor

**Christmas with  
Laudate Pueri Choir**  
21 December - 11.30am  
Ground Floor

## Social and Celebratory

**Christmas Bake Sale**  
13 - 14 December | 9.00am  
Pjazza San Gorg

**New Year's Eve on The Roof**  
31 December | 10.00pm  
The Roof @ Il-Haġar

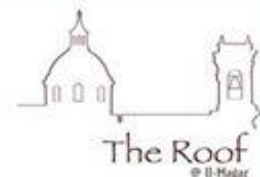
**L-Ikla tal-Hbieb -  
The Traditional Epiphany  
Sunday Lunch**  
5 January | 12.30pm  
The Refectory,  
St George's Parish House

### Il-Haġar | Heart of Gozo Museum Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday: 9.00am and 5.00pm  
Closed on Christmas Day and  
New Year's Day  
info@heartofgozo.org.mt

### The Roof @ Il-Haġar Café, Wine and Cocktail Bar Opening Hours

Monday to Wednesday:  
11.00am - 5.00pm  
Thursday to Sunday: 11.00am till late  
Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve:  
11.00am till late  
Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day  
Private event booking / information:  
theroof@heartofgozo.org.mt



Conneely Vanessa

## WHEN GEORGE MET MIKHAIL IN MALTA

30 YEARS AGO

George Bush shares a joke with Mikhail Gorbachev on December 3, 1989, on board the soviet cruise Maxim Gorki during the summit in Malta. Photo: AFP

*Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush held talks on a cruise ship in Marsaxlokk harbour 30 years ago as a storm raged outside. The talks are credited with having ended the cold war. Vanessa Conneely spoke to people involved in the historic event.*

“In his autobiography, I remember Mikhail Gorbachev writing something like ‘When I visited Malta I saw lines of rubble walls, while my wife got taken to see the island’s treasures’,” says Fr Marius Zerafa, the man tasked with giving Russia’s First Lady a tour of St John’s Co-Cathedral 30 years ago.

While her husband negotiated one of the most successful peace deals of the last century, his wife Raisa Gorbachev asked to be shown local heritage sites. But things did not go to plan.

“All of the monsignori and dignitaries were lined up and waiting for her to arrive in the morning at St John’s, but then we were told she would not be coming because of the storm and she had a bit of a cold.

“So, we all left. Then, at 3pm, I got a call from the Prime Minister’s office to say that she was on the way. I told them ‘I don’t have a car’, and they said; ‘we’ll send you a car’. When I got back to the Co-Cathedral, the Prime Minister’s wife and daughter were already there and Mrs Gorbachev had just arrived. But then we realised the door was locked and the sacristan – who had the key – was nowhere to be found.”

Fr Zerafa, who has just turned 90, wrote about meeting Mrs Gorbachev in his memoir *The Caravaggio Diaries*. He was chosen to give her the tour because he had co-founded the Maltese-Soviet Friendship Society in 1974.

“Once we got inside, she loved it and asked lots of interesting and educated questions. I apologised for the bad weather, but assured her we only kept this kind of weather for special guests to Malta, such as herself and St. Paul. I gave her a gold-plated silver filigree Malta Cross, which I always keep a stock of in



the Priory for visiting guests. After the tour, she told me ‘I will never forget this place’.”

Another man who was under pressure in the lead up to the Malta Summit was Maltese artist Edwin Galea.

The 85-year-old, who still runs an art gallery in Valletta, was commissioned to paint four large artworks for the visiting leaders in just one week.

“In November 1989, I was called to Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami’s office. He asked me to paint a commemorative watercolour for President George H Bush and general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as the US Secretary of State and Soviet Foreign Minister. I only had a week to do it, so I had to work day and night to get them finished. But before I could even start painting, I had to do some research, which was difficult.”

*A ceremony marking the anniversary will take place in Birzebbuga today*

Mr Galea says he was provided with top secret documents, including aerial photos of where the ships would be docking, so he could get the angles right.

He added: “But I didn’t know what the ships were going to look like. So, I had to contact Washington and Moscow and try and get some information about what the USS Belknap – which would be used for the meeting – looked like. The Americans were very helpful, but the Russians took a bit longer to convince.”



*Maltese artist Edwin Galea presenting US President George Bush with one of his paintings at the White House, a year before the Malta Summit.*

But despite having successfully completed the paintings, Mr Galea was not asked to the ceremony

when they were presented. However, he said it didn't bother him as he had already met Mr Bush the previous year in Washington.

"I knew he loved naval ships as he had served in the navy himself, so I had painted him a historical painting of a US ship docked in the Grand Harbour in Valletta

in 1803. I wanted to give it to him myself, but relations between Malta and the US were strained at that time, because of the Egypt Air hijacking a year before." Luckily, however, he had a contact among the Maltese-American community who set up an appointment. He called him and told me that he had a week to get there.

## Foreign teachers participate in school's project



Thirteen teachers from Slovakia, Spain, Greece and Italy visited the Victoria Primary to participate in the 'Good Behaviour Leads To Success' project as part of the Erasmus+ Project Live Healthy, Be Active and Get Motivated.

The teachers were introduced to the school's Golden Rules: We are Gentle, We are Kind and Helpful, We are Honest, We Listen, We Work Hard and We Take Care of Things. During their five-day stay the group visited various historical places around Gozo.

*The Malta Band Club*  
Presents  
*The Members Christmas Dinner & Dance*  
Saturday, December 14th  
Doors Open at 6:00pm  
Members:- \$45 Non-Members:- \$55

**Menu :-**  
Pasta  
Veal And Chicken  
Potatoes And Vegetables  
Salad  
Coffee Or Tea With Pastry  
2 Bottles Of Wine On Table  
Cash Bar

*DJ for your Dancing Pleasure*

Tickets call the Club at 905-890-8507

MALTESE BAND CLUB - Mississauga

**canada**

O Canada! Our home and native land.  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The true north, strong and free,  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free.  
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.



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**The Journal of Maltese Living Overseas**

ORGANIZED BY THE MALTESE CANADIAN FEDERATION

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As the Consul General for the past five months I have been inundated with requests to do something to restart Maltese Language teaching in Canada. Well, your requests have been heard and thanks to the efforts and initiative of Mr Joe Sherri, President of the MalteseCanadian Federation and his team, read the attached poster.

**MALTESE LANGUAGE TEACHING IS BACK!**

Now it is up to you to learn Maltese, teach your children, grandchildren their Maltese identity. You have a duty to do so and your young ones have a right to know their rich culture, heritage and language Dr. R. Xerri

**'We must find innovative ways to keep the Maltese-Canadian community connected with Malta'**

From our archives  
Tuesday, May 2018

The Former President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca visited the offices of the Maltese Consulate in Toronto and met with the Consul-General and staff.

The President then met with President of the Maltese-Canadian

Federation Mr Joe Sherri as well as with the various presidents of the Maltese clubs and organisations that are active in Ontario.

She commended their excellent work and their endeavours to keep the Maltese-Canadian community connected while also saying that it was important to now take those connections to the next level. President Coleiro Preca said that this could be done by focusing on digital media and other online platforms of communication.

"We must find innovative ways to entice our Maltese descendants, especially the younger generation, to keep the community alive and connected with Malta in the future", stated the President.

President Coleiro Preca also presided over a meeting of Maltese-Canadian entrepreneurs during which she spoke about the importance of developing and strengthening economic links between Malta and Canada.

"Malta is a regional hub in the centre of the Mediterranean, with strong links to the rapidly expanding markets in the African continent", said the President.

President Coleiro Preca concluded by recommending the creation of a Maltese-Canadian Business Network in order to facilitate connections between the respective business and commerce authorities of Malta and Canada.

"We need to connect on all levels, and this should be the future for the Maltese community and the Maltese descendants in Canada. Let us go from one level to another level, by working together and by prospering together", stated the President.

around Dundas St. West, where the Maltese Franciscan fathers built a church now administered by the Maltese Society of Saint Paul (MSSP). Maltese clubs and societies are also located in this area. Other Maltese communities are found throughout Ontario, with smaller groups in Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

## MALTESE CANADIANS



Article by George Bonavia - Updated by Celine Cooper

Published Online November 2008 Last Edited December 3, 2019

The Republic of Malta is an archipelago comprised of seven islands located in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Sicily. Although waves of immigration occurred in 1840, around 1907, and between 1918 and 1920, there were few Maltese in Canada until after the Second World War (WWII). The 2016 Canadian census reported 41, 915 people of Maltese origin (12, 815 single and 29, 100 multiple responses).

### Background

Malta was a British colony from 1814 until 21 September 1964, when it gained its independence; 10 years later it became a republic. In 2006, the census recorded 37 120 people of Maltese origin in Canada, most of whom emigrated after WWII from the islands of Malta and Gozo. Maltese trace their ethnic and linguistic origins to the Phoenicians. The 2016 census showed 6370 people who reported Maltese as their mother tongue (first language learned). The Maltese, who speak a Semitic language, celebrate their independence day on 21 September.

### Migration and Settlement

Once in Canada, the Maltese settled first in Ontario. Between 1946 and 1981 more than 18 000 came to Canada, but immigration has slowed significantly. Almost half of the Maltese in Canada live in Toronto (19,440 people), traditionally with a heavy concentration around Dundas St. West, where the Maltese Franciscan fathers built a church now administered by the Maltese Missionary Society of Saint Paul (MSSP). Maltese clubs and societies are also located in this area. Other Maltese communities are found throughout Ontario, with smaller groups in Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. The Consul General for Malta is Dr. Raymond Xerri.



### MALTESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

**Consul General meets The Knights of Columbus in Mississauga**  
**The Knights of Columbus's St. Patrick Council, established in 2000**  
**a member of the Maltese-Canadian Federation and has its Grand Knight**  
**who is Amadeo Cuschieri, a Maltese-Canadian and its Counsel,**  
**Knight Mr & Mrs Farrugia.**

**The St Patrick Council has over 200 members who serve at the Church**  
**the community, pray and sponsor charitable projects**  
**and initiatives locally, in Canada and around the world .**

**Consul General of Malta to Canada,**

**Dr Raymond Xerri was invited to formal meeting with its Grand Knight Cuschieri.**

**Dr Xerri was the guest of honour at a dinner after the meeting**  
**and met the Maltese members and their spouses.**

# LITTLE MALTA IN THE JUNCTION

Presented by Richard Cumbo  
at St. Paul the Apostle Church  
3224 Dundas St. W.  
Thursday Dec. 5th @ 7pm!

West Toronto Junction Historical Society

The Junction History meeting was held at St. Paul the Apostle Church at 3224 Dundas St. W. "Little Malta in the Junction" and was presented by Richard Cumbo, Curator of the Maltese-Canadian Museum. This is a 1974 photo was taken by Roberta Hill and is now in the collection of Rob Hutchenson.



—  
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**Radio Malta** (Maltese: *Radju Malta*) is the main radio service of [Public Broadcasting Services](#), the public broadcaster of Malta.

### Founding



The origins of Radio Malta go back to 1935. For many years, transmissions were effected on a cable-radio system which started way back on 11 November 1935 by a British company called [Rediffusion](#).<sup>[1]</sup> This [Rediffusion](#) Cable Radio Service was officially launched on 11 November 1935.<sup>[2]</sup> On 29 September 1962, the same company, officially opened the Malta Television Service, then known as MTV, now [Television](#)

[Malta](#) (TVM).<sup>[3]</sup> During the late sixties [Rediffusion](#) Malta effected several test transmissions with the aim to set up a radio station. But the radio station never materialised, possibly due to conflict of interest with the cable radio system which the same company was utilising.

Regular Wireless radio transmissions in Maltese started on 8 January 1973 by the Malta Broadcasting Authority on 999 kHz Medium Wave (AM). It was called "Radju ta' Malta".<sup>[4]</sup> This frequency is still in use by Radio Malta.

Norman Hamilton, then Rediffusion's top D.J., left the company and decided to join Radio Malta from its first day of transmission. Norman is no longer involved in radio. Mario Laus was also one of Radio Malta's first D.J.s and today he is still one of its most popular D.J.s and certainly the longest-serving D.J. of this radio station. Another popular D.J. is Brian Micallef who started presenting Rock Programs during the Rediffusion era and is still very active on Radio Malta.

In 1975, when [Xandir Malta](#) was set up, the Cable Radio system, now no longer belonging to Rediffusion, and Radio Malta, became one entity with a separate identity. Radio Malta started transmitting on 93.7 F.M. when the British Forces Broadcasting Services ([BFBS](#) Malta) closed down on 31 March 1979 with the departure of British Services from the Maltese Islands.

### Development



*Former Radio Malta logo*

The cable radio system was officially closed down on 31 January 1989 and its programmes continued on as a wireless service on MW 999 kHz.<sup>[5]</sup> Consequently, many talented and experienced broadcasters were now working solely for Radio Malta. Among these, the late Charles Arrigo, trained by the B.B.C., and considered by many as the Dean of Maltese Broadcasting. The legendary and charismatic broadcaster, the late Charles Abela Mizzi, with his golden voice, also gave a great contribution to Radio Malta. Other veterans, still serving with Radio Malta, are George Peresso and Peter Paul Ciantar.

In 1990, [Public Broadcasting Services](#) took over the role and responsibility of Xandir Malta.<sup>[6]</sup> Its stereophonic transmissions are now also accessible in Malta on [DAB+](#).

The year 1991 ushered in an era of broadcast pluralism in Malta.<sup>[7]</sup> This phenomenon brought to Radio Malta many a new talent. However, with pluralism, Malta witnessed greater staff mobility within local radio stations which started to mushroom on the Maltese Islands. Joe Dimech, Lilian Maistre, Ray Calleja, Tony Micallef, Albert Storace, Brian Micallef, Eddie Darmanin, are just some of its longest serving broadcasters. Today many new voices are part of Radio Malta's success. Other veterans have also returned to the fold.

### Content

Radio Malta transmits cultural and current affairs programmes putting a strong focus on news. Phone-Ins feature on some of its programmes. Classical music and classic hits form an integral part of its daily 24x7 schedule. With the exception of the BBC News, all programmes on Radio Malta are transmitted in the Maltese language.

In a survey conducted by the Malta Broadcasting Authority published in September 2019, Radio Malta was classified as the third most "listened to" radio station in Malta and Gozo. In the "Daytime Call-in/Request Shows" category, Lilian Maistre's show came first with regards to "Radio Programmes which listeners normally follow".<sup>[9]</sup> The current station's Programmes Manager is Mr. Frans Lia

## Chivalry Isn't Dead: Simon Schembri Has Been Knighted by The Knights Of Malta



By [Johnathan Cilia](mailto:lovinmalta.com) lovinmalta.com

Simon Schembri, the police officer left fighting for his life after being run over and dragged beneath a car, has become a Knight.

In an official ceremony overseen by the Knights of Malta, Schembri was dressed in full Order regalia, with the eight-pointed Maltese cross draped across his shoulders.

"This week our founder was officially

Knighted by The Knights of Malta Sovereign Order of Jerusalem. We congratulate him for yet another achievement in appreciation for the contribution to our beloved country," the Blue Light Foundation, the emergency worker support NGO set up after Schembri's incident, said today.

He has now been ordained as Chevalier Simon Schembri.

People congratulated the officer that many thought would die after being injured [so badly his lungs](#) had become visible. Share this story to congratulate Simon Schembri on his Knighthood.

## BELTIN

Stejjer minn nies minsija



Valletta, we're always told, was a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen. We all grew up on stories about the Knights, and the nobles and their glorious architecture. But what about the rest of the people, those people who throughout the centuries lived away from the palaces. What about the real inhabitants of the city?

*Beltin: Stejjer minn nies minsija* is a book written from the grassroots, about the grassroots. Culture journalist Ramona Depares, born and raised in Valletta, zones in her pen on the woman who helps her husband in the grocery store, the footballer hero who lives down the road, the nanna who babysits her grandchild, the man who runs the whole carnival show.

"Growing up in *the* city is a very particular life experience," said Depares, who lived a great part of her life in Valletta. And that is exactly what she

## A Publication about Valletta 'Beltin: Stejjer minn nies minsija'

wanted to capture in the book: the people which give the city its soul. The knights gave it the shell, and a very beautiful one at that, but no one really ever talked about the inside of that shell.

"Although there are many books about Valletta and its famous people, I always felt there was a void that needed to be filled," she said. The National Book Council recognised the production value of the idea and together with Merlin Publishers, co-financed the project.

The result is a hardback, instagrammable coffee table book - the ideal gift for anyone who has a love for the city, which even got the thumbs up from veteran author Trevor Żahra, who lauded it as the book which keeps "Valletta alive".

The book is not autobiographical: some of the anecdotes are based on her life, like how she first learnt to swim with Fort St Elmo as her backdrop, and other stories are based on the experiences of friends, relatives and other *Beltin*.

In her collection of writings - free flowing, short snippets - she tries to bring out the "very loyal, at times difficult, always gregarious" character of the *Beltin*, who as it happens, are always up for a good party, be it football celebrations or election carcades.

Her staccato-like insights are brought to life with visuals by Moira Scicluna Zahra, an award-winning illustrator, whose unique graphic style is a social commentary in itself.

Together they observe the raw and mundane things that are fast dying out: the women communicating in cacophony to each other across the balconies; the stark white clothes hang out from the verandas to dry; these are all becoming rare because people are leaving their beloved Valletta.

"The community is dying out, outpriced by business ... it is becoming impossible for average-income families to continue living there because they can no longer afford it," said Depares. As a result, she fears, the city is fast becoming "a homogenous, sanitised entertainment centre spawning the same bar facades, the same drinks at the same prices and with the same happy hour".

The only thing she can do is document the stories, identifies the lifestyles before they die away... Depares does this with honesty and passion, by a *Beltija* for the *Beltin*.

'*Beltin: Stejjer minn nies minsija*' is available for sale from all leading bookshops or directly online from [merlinpublishers.com](http://merlinpublishers.com)



## Il-Gozo Book fest

Mill-korrispondent taghna minn Ghawdex  
Kav Joe M Attard

Bħala parti mill-Gozo Book Fest, bħalissa fil-Librerija Nazzjonali fi Triq Vajringa Victoria hemm għall-wiri Wirja biex tfakkar l-400 sena tal-Kwadru tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu ta' Amadeo Perugino. Morru arawha għax interessanti. Barra minn hekk nhar il-Gimgha li għaddiet, id-Direzjoni tal-Librerija tellgħet serata Marjana li matulha nqraw poeziji dwar il-Madonna ta' diversi poeti, fosthom Francesco Pio Attard, Il-Kan Joe Mejlak, Patri Wistin Attard Kapp, Fr Geoffrey G. Atard, Ganninu Cremona, Patri Remig Galea Kap, Joe M Attard, Patri Gizwita Guze' Delia, u Robert Gatt. Hudu sehem diversi qarreja Għawdxin.

L-għada s-Sibt inżammet serata oħra fil-Librerija li matulha saret diskussjoni dwar is-Sur Pawlu Mizzi, Fundatur tal-Klabb Kotba Maltin u llum magħruf bħala 'Missier il-Ktieb Malti' billi kien hu strumentali biex bosta kittieba setgħu jaraw ix-xogħol tagħhom stampat u ppubblikat. Il-Panel

kien magħmul minn George Mallia, Trevor Zahra u Sergio Grech waqt li l-Kav Joe M Attard mexxa d-diskussjoni bis-sehem ukoll ta' diversi persuni li għamlu l-interventi tagħhom minn fost il-pubbliku sabiħ li attenda fosthom Manwel Schembri, Joe Camilleri, Toni Mizzi kif ukoll ulied Pawlu Mizzi. Kienet preżenti wkoll l-armla ta' Pawlu Mizzi, Marija. Ilkoll qablu li Pawlu Mizzi tassew jixraqlu jissejjah Missier il-ktieb Malti għax kien hu li sa minn żmien twil ilu l-Malti għandu jsib postu fuq il-pedistall li nixraqlu u beda jħajjar u jgħin bosta awturi u kittieba biex joħorġu għaddawl il-kitbiet tagħhom u kien hu fil-fatt li waqqaf il-Kloabb Kotba Maltin u l-Midsea Books li tawna bosta kotba Melitensia, il-Miklem Malti, l-Istorja ta' Malta u Ghawdex, is-sensiela Heritage id-Dizzjunarju ta' Aquilina, il-Ktieb tax-xahar li kien jinkludi rumanzi, drammi, foklore, poezija, kotba għat-tfal u tant u tant pubblikazzjonijiet oħra. Naturalment din l-attività kollha ma waqfitx mal-mewt tal-Fundatur, iżda llum nsibu lil ibnu Joseph li qed ikompli din il-ħidma kollha. Nawgurawlu. Intant fi tmiem is-serata l-uffiċċjal tal-Librerija f'Għawdex George Cassar radd ħajr lil kull min ha sehem waqt li matul in-nofs ta' nhar ta' filgħodu mexxa żewġ tours mar-Rabat l-antik tagħna u spjega u wera fejn kienet l-ewwel librerija u tkellem dwar l-istorja tagħhom.

## MALTESE AMERICANS - United States



*Grave of Orlando Caruana, who fought in the American Civil War.*

The first immigrants from Malta to the United States arrived during the mid-eighteenth century to the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Many Americans assumed Malta was part of Italy. In some cases "Born Malta, Italy" was put on

tombstones of Maltese because of the confusion. At this time and in the nineteenth century the Maltese who emigrated to the United States were still scarce. In fact, in the 1860s, only between five and ten Maltese emigrated to the United States every year. The majority of them were agricultural workers, and, in the case of New Orleans, market gardeners and vegetable dealers. After World War I, in 1919, Maltese immigration to the US increased. In the first quarter of 1920 more than 1,300 Maltese immigrated to the United States. Detroit, Michigan, with jobs in the expanding automobile industry, drew the largest share of immigrants. It is believed that in the following years, more than 15,000 Maltese people emigrated to the United States, later getting U.S. citizenship. A significant percentage of early Maltese immigrants intended to stay only temporarily for work, but many settled in the US permanently. In addition to Detroit,

other industrial cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, California, attracted Maltese immigrants.<sup>[30]</sup> After World War II the Maltese Government committed to pay passage costs to Maltese people who wanted to emigrate and live at least two years abroad. This program led to increased emigration by the people of the island and made up approximately 8,000 Maltese who arrived to the United States between the years 1947 and 1977. Malta's government promoted Maltese emigration because Malta was overpopulated.

The majority of Maltese immigrants arrived in the first half of the twentieth century, settling in cities like Detroit, New York City, San Francisco, Houston, and Chicago. The majority of Americans of Maltese descent now live in these five cities, particularly Detroit (approximately 44,000 Maltese) and New York City (more than 20,000 Maltese), in the latter them, most of the people of Maltese origin are concentrated in Astoria, Queens.<sup>[30]</sup> In California, a Maltese community thrives in San Pedro and Long Beach.

The 2016 American Community Survey estimated 40,820 Americans of Maltese ancestry.<sup>[31]</sup> Of these, 24,202 have Maltese as their first ancestry.<sup>[32]</sup> This includes Maltese born immigrants to the United States, their American born descendants as well as numerous immigrants from other nations of Maltese origin.

As in their country of origin, Maltese Americans predominantly practice Roman Catholicism as their religion. Many are practicing Catholics, attending church every week and actively participating in their local parishes.



Photograph printed by the State Library of Victoria in 1991 from a print made in 1925



[The formation of the Maltese Community Council of Alexandria, Egypt, at the Alhambra Theatre, Alexandria, 1925]

## MALTESE IN EGYPT

The **Maltese of Egypt**, also known as **Egyptian Franco-Maltese**, are an ethnic minority group in Egypt. Though culturally very similar to the Franco-Maltese of Tunisia and Algeria, most people of Maltese or part-Maltese descent born in Egypt remained British subjects. They are immigrants, or descendants of immigrants, from the islands of Malta, who settled in Egypt largely during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and intermarried heavily

with Italians, French and other Europeans. Those with a French father assumed French citizenship. Some Maltese had been present in the country as early as the era of Napoleon and his conquest of Egypt. The proximity between the two countries and the similarity between the Maltese and Arabic languages have led many Maltese to settle in Egypt in the past, mainly in Alexandria.<sup>[1]</sup> Like the Italians who settled in Egypt, the Egyptian-born Maltese constituted a portion of Egypt's Roman Catholic community. By 1939, up to 20,000 Maltese were living in Egypt. Practically all of these were French-speaking, and those with a French parent had French as their mother tongue. In many middle-class families (especially in Alexandria and Cairo) a language shift had occurred, with Italian used as the home language alongside French; a large minority of Egyptian Maltese (for example those of the Suez Canal Zone) still retained Maltese as their mother tongue. This number was greatly reduced by emigration years after, and almost completely wiped out by expulsions in 1956 due to the Maltese being British nationals. Most of the Egyptian Franco-Maltese settled in Australia or Britain, where they remained culturally distinct from immigrants from Malta. Those with French citizenship were repatriated to France. Post-war Malta in general did not accept refugees from Egypt.

### History – Maltese in Egypt

Catholic Malta and predominantly Muslim North Africa have had troubled relations since at least the Crusades, when Malta became the final stand against the Turks by the Knights Hospitallers. Malta held, and after the Crusades many attacks against Arab and Turkish coastal towns were launched from it. Not all of the Maltese who joined the Knights in these attacks returned home. Some lost their liberty, settling against their will in North Africa.

The Knights remained in possession of Malta until its seizure by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798. Bonaparte formed a troop of Maltese--the number of men varies in sources from 400 or 500 to 2000--who went with him into Egypt as part of the Mediterranean campaign of 1798.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> Many of these men settled in the Eastern Mediterranean after Napoleon's loss at the Battle of the Nile, becoming some of the first Maltese settlers in Egypt.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Opportunity for work with the British drew more Maltese into the area thereafter, although there was an exodus of Maltese refugees back to their native land in 1822, when Alexandria was besieged by the British. Nevertheless, Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Rosetta and Port Said continued to be a draw for Maltese settlers.

Maltese immigrants joined the many others who flocked to the area for work in 1859 with the construction of the Suez Canal. The Egyptian Maltese community was heavily employed in such construction areas as masonry, carpentry, and smithing as well as in administration and commerce. Many became employees of the French Suez Canal

Company. As English was known to some and they were quicker than Europeans to learn Arabic, they proved useful to British employers. Language became a major focus of the Maltese work force. While many had left their homes illiterate, speaking Maltese and usually also Italian, they sent their children to French Catholic schools where they developed fluency not only in French, which became the principal language of the subsequent generations, but also in English and Arabic. This education made them useful both in consular work and to European companies entering the area.

Relations between the Maltese immigrants and the Egyptian population were not always easy. In Alexandria in 1882, a fight between a Maltese immigrant and an Egyptian donkey driver, in which the donkey driver

was killed, led the Egyptians to riot. As word spread that the Europeans were killing Egyptians the residents took to the streets. They met return fire from Europeans, Greeks, Syrians and other Christians, with violence continuing until finally the army was called in to intervene.<sup>[5]</sup>

In 1926, there were nearly 20,000 Maltese residents living and working in Egypt. However, the Suez Crisis of 1956,<sup>[6]</sup> when Malta was used as a point of deployment by the British and French for troops to invade Egypt,<sup>[7]</sup> was followed by the expulsion of Maltese immigrants, along with many other groups, from the country.

Egyptian Maltese, like the very similar Tunisian Maltese and Algerian Maltese varieties, is an archaic form of the language, characterized by the preservation of late nineteenth-century features (including numerous Italian lexical elements now replaced by English loanwords in the Maltese of Malta), a large number of borrowings from French and a small number of Arabic loanwords and expressions relating to life in Egypt. As a majority of Egyptian-born Maltese had origins in the Cottonera (Three Cities) harbourside district of Malta, Cottoneran dialectalisms are another feature distinguishing Egyptian Maltese from the current metropolitan standard variety of the language.



## Writing Stars at the Malta Maritime Museum

The National Literacy Agency, in collaboration with Heritage Malta, organised a Writing Stars Festival at the Malta Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa last Saturday. Forty-five children from State and Church Middle Schools in Malta and Gozo took part.

The Writing Stars initiative for Middle Schools offers creative writing opportunities for promising twelve year-old writers, who excelled in the writing component of the English and Maltese annual examinations. During this year's Writing Festival, the students participated in various workshops run by famous Maltese authors, namely Rita Saliba, John A Bonello, Clare Azzopardi, Trevor Zahra, Ivan De Battista, Charles Casha and Carmel G Cauchi, and two renowned British authors, Cat Weatherill and Ian Douglas. Each student was given a certificate of participation and Maltese and English reading books. The Writing Stars initiative is one of the various writing for pleasure activities, organised by the National Literacy Agency, in several localities around Malta and Gozo.



## Christmas decorations at Gozo Ministry made by clients of Santa Marta Centre

Clients of the Santa Marta Day Centre in Victoria, have once again made the Christmas decorations, bring festive cheer to the entrance of the Ministry for Gozo. Gozo Minister Dr Justyne Caruana gave her sincere thanks to everyone for their work, saying "I believe strongly in the rights of disabled people, but believe even more in their skills." The United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is celebrated annually on the

3rd of December, aims to promote the understanding of disability issues, with a strong message for the inclusion and skills of disabled persons. *Photographs: MGOZ/George Scerri*

***Some readers keep all the editions on a USB for future use.  
This journal is very popular among young readers***



## Migration: a state of limbo

All That Glitters is not Gold mural. Photos: James Micallef Grimaud  
A multi-disciplinary exhibition running at Spazju Kreattiv in Valletta is presenting a visual narrative examining the sociopolitical context of the current migratory crisis in Europe.

Death of Innocence

Made up of large-scale paintings and installations by artist James Micallef Grimaud, the exhibition is titled A State of Limbo, referring to the state of political affairs in Europe



## What's in store this New Year's Eve in Valletta?

In a month's time we'll see in a New Year. New Year's eve celebrations in Valletta will be held at St George's Square, which will stage some of the largest local


artists including the band Ozzy Lino And The Candy Moths, Kevin Paul Gaia, Kurt Calleja and the Travelers who will be live in concert and entertain the crowds with their unique performances.

This will all take place amid fireworks and special effects with projections that will welcome the new year. Chairman of the Cultural Agency for Valletta, Jason Micallef, said that these celebrations are part of a vast program of the planned agency for Christmas time in the city.

Mayor of Valletta Alfred Zammit said that this activity was close to the Council's heart because it allowed families to enjoy the New Year in Valletta at an price without spending a lot of money.

Keep on supporting this journal. We sincerely thank our regular contributors. For over six years we have been entertaining readers from all over the world. We have been told that in several gatherings of Maltese the journal is printed and distributed among those present. Thank you!!!

**La Valette Social Centre Inc.**  
175 Walters Road,  
Blacktown NSW 2148  
Tel. 9622 5847  
Email: lavalett@bigpond.net.au

  
**St Francis Chapel**  
\*\*\* One Mass only \*\*\*  
Saturday 5.30pm  
(When a priest is available)

Every Tuesday from 9.00am  
**Boççi**  
For members and their friends



Every Thursday  
**Maltese Respite Care Service**  
Mass in Maltese in the Main Hall at 10.15am  
Morning Tea - Lunch  
Bingo & Boççi  
Everybody is welcome.

Every Saturday  
Kitchen and Bar open from 5.00pm  
Traditional Maltese Cuisine  
including Rabbit, Ravioli & Pastizzi  
Boççi from 6.00pm  
Live DJ from 8.00pm  
Bingo Starts at 8.00pm with Jackpot from \$100 to \$500



DJ Emanuel Grech

Last Saturday of the Month - Ghana Night  
With Saver Bonanno and friends



**La Valette Social Centre**  
175 Walters Road, Blacktown

## Carols by Candlelight Show

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2019  
The show starts at 6.30pm in the Main Hall



COME & ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF  
**A MALTESE CHRISTMAS WITH US**

With these featuring singers:

JOE APAP.....NATASHA TATARINOFF.....MCA CHOIR directed  
by Marisa Privitera.....Victor Mifsud.....and the Kids from the Maltese  
Language School of NSW.

There will be a pageant about our Traditional Maltese  
Christmas, together with a Christmas Message.

Nannu Santa will be coming to the La Valette, so  
please bring a present for your children with their  
name on it, so that Santa will give it to your kids.



**FOR SAFETY REASONS** .....Candles (battery  
operated) will be on sale for a \$1.00 each.

**ENTRANCE IS FREE**

For more info, please call:

Antoinette on 9622 5847.....Greg on 0411 517 187....Agnes on 0432 714 735

*Kids are wanted to dress for the Christmas Pageant.*

*Call Agnes*

### Notices

#### Maltese Respite Care Services

**Christmas Holidays:** The service will be closing as usual for 4 weeks for the  
Christmas break. The last day this year will be Thursday 13 December 2019  
and will reopen again on Thursday 16 January 2020.

For any enquires ring Cassandra on 9621-2151 Monday to Friday  
between 9.00am and 3.30pm.

#### Consular Services

Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, Consul General for NSW, will be visiting the Centre to  
help and advise our members on all matters relating to Malta, including passports,  
Maltese power-of-Attorney (Prokura), Malta Pensions and other Consular matters.

#### Appointments are essential.

\*\* Appointments for Biometric Passports can only be made at the  
Consulate in Sydney.\*\*

Next scheduled visit to the Centre to be advised

### LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE Committee 2019/2020

President: Antoinette Caruana  
Vice President: Edward Busuttill  
Secretary: Frances Fitzpatrick  
Asst. Secretary: Antoinette Mangion  
Treasurer (Acting): Ivan Cauchi  
Asst Treasurer: Angelo Borg  
Members: Gregory Caruana, Angelo Cutajar,  
Joyce Micallef, Michael Spiteri, Jimmy Zammit  
Pastoral Organiser: Lawrence Falzon  
PRO: To be appointed  
Newsletter Editor: Godfrey Sultana

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT & CAROLS AT THE MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE – PARKVILLE - VICTORIA

21 December @ 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Join the Maltese Own Band in celebrating Christmas!

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUPPORTED BY THE MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

Mass will be held at 6pm Doors open at 6.30pm

Free Entry RSVP to Register your attendance:

Danielle – [0403 139 309](tel:0403139309) or [malteseownband@gmail.com](mailto:malteseownband@gmail.com)

Food and drinks available to purchase at bar prices

SAVE THE DATE - DECEMBER 31st, 2019

# THE MALTESE CENTER PRESENTS

## New Years Eve Gala Dinner Dance

### AT THE ASTORIA WORLD MANOR

MC AND ENTERTAINMENT BY OUR OWN ...DJ CHUCK...!!!!!!

7.30pm - 1.30am

Deluxe Butler Service Cocktail Hour  
Twenty Item Buffet Dinner / Reserved Seating  
Dessert and Coffee  
Open Bar / Premium Liquor

Adult Donation: \$150

Under 12 yrs Donation: \$70

*Under the Auspices of the Malta Mission*

## EMPIRE HALL

RSVP - email - [maltesecenterny@aol.com](mailto:maltesecenterny@aol.com)

Call: Joe Grech at 646 287-7263 or Eddie DeBono at 917 807-2874



## Brunch with Santa

at 12:30pm on

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Bring your kids and enjoy the afternoon with Santa. Parents, bring a wrapped and clearly labeled gift for your child. Santa will be calling the kids names and give them the gifts. Fun and games, pancakes, waffles, fresh fruits, ice cream etc. Complimentary admission for Member's kids, \$10 donation for non-member's children

Please RSVP by December 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

[maltesecenterny@aol.com](mailto:maltesecenterny@aol.com)

Pauline Zammit: 917 617-9936

Rita Bajada: 718 757-7173

Amanda Azzopardi: 917 710-2469

## Members Christmas Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
7.00 PM - 1.00 AM at the Lower Hall

Members and their spouses or significant other, who are in good standing and up to date with their membership dues are invited to come and enjoy a get together appreciation Party.

\$30 DONATION AT THE DOOR FOR NON MEMBERS AND GUESTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE EVENT.

THREE COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS

PER MEMBER / GUEST.

COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET

## Music By DJ CHUCK