

Maltese eNewsletter



Editor
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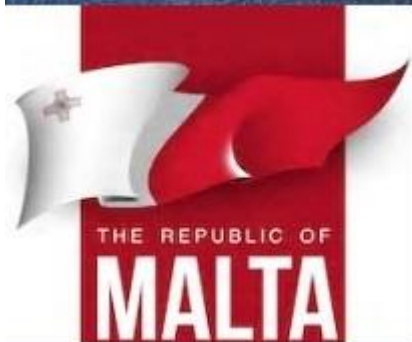
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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Madhavi & Group
Indian folk group based in Malta

Visual Adams



**Maltese scattered
all around the globe**

**'How dare you':
Greta Thunberg
tears into world
leaders over
inaction at U.N.
climate summit**





NEW MARSJA FLYOVER OPENED

The first two flyovers in the Marsa Junction project were officially opened to traffic on Friday evening, with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat saying "What better present can we give to Malta and its people on the night before the 55th anniversary of Independence than the first phase of this grand project?"

The two flyovers, which will connect Aldo Moro road to Giuseppe Garibaldi road and which will take commuters in the direction of the Malta International Airport, were made using 127 underground concrete piles, 16 concrete columns, 800 tonnes of metal, 7,500 tonnes of concrete, 1,400 tonnes of asphalt, and a total of 69 beams, and stand at four storeys high; making it the highest flyover in the country.

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat addressed the inauguration of the flyovers, saying that the investment that the government is making in its infrastructure is without precedent, noting that the promise of investing €700 million in a seven-year plan was well on course and adding that this capital project signified another €70 million over and above that, 15% of which was funded by the European Union.

He noted that this project has been needed for many years, noting that the last significant update to the junction took place in 1997, and queried as to what better present can be given to Malta and its people on the night before the 55th anniversary of Independence than the completion of the first phase of this project.

He described the project as "an absolute game-changer", noting how work had gone on for seven-days a week and sometimes even at night, with the coordination and help of various authorities and entities.

He noted that the decision for Friday to be the opening day for the flyover was not just symbolic given that it is the eve of Independence Day, but also

practical, as it is the last weekday before students across the country flock back to their classrooms, a period which creates heightened traffic.

He appealed for all those using the flyover to drive cautiously and abide by the speed limits in place, while noting that the project's standards of safety are all in line with EU regulations. Muscat said that the project was not possible without the surplus that Malta was achieving, lauding the country's economic performance. He said that when the project is done it will equate to much less traffic, and a better quality of life, whilst also referring to an analysis by economist Gordon Cordina, which found that the government's projects will result in 62,000 less tonnes of emissions.

He said that projects such as this will continue the holistic regeneration of the south, noting that it will have positive effects in terms of the environment, the economic, and the accessibility of the area.

He decried comments about the contractors responsible for the flyover, who hail from Turkey, saying that the comments that he had seen when the company was chosen bordered on being racist, something which he said he was deeply ashamed of.

"That we are here today proves that you are capable, can carry out work at a European standard, and do it for good value for money", Muscat said, praising the contractors.

Transport, Infrastructure, and Capital Projects Minister Ian Borg noted the environmental benefits of the project, saying that vehicles will be cleaner as they stop less, that the air will be cleaner as a result, and that the project caters for those who want to walk or cycle through the area.

He made sure to mention the government's initiatives on public transport, noting that a record number of people were using public transport, 30,000 youths could use the same public transport for free, and thousands were using the intra-harbour ferry systems as well. "We are here because we are do-ers", Borg said. The flyover was inaugurated by vintage cars owned by members of the Old Motors Club, who were the first to cross the new road onto Giuseppe Garibaldi Street.

During Zejt iz-Żejtun it's we will be hosting around 17 International Folk groups from Poland, Slovakia, India, Hungary, Austria, Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia and of course Malta Not to be missed at Zejtun Kids Club.



ZEJT IZ-ŻEJTUN

Folklore • Food • Music • Dancing • Traditional Singing

Saturday 28th September 2019 evening
& Sunday 29th September morning at the Żejtun Square

Created and organised by the Żejtun Local Council












5-9 December 2019

THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR FESTIVAL

THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CHOIR FESTIVAL

2019 The Malta International Christmas Choir Festival will be held between the 5th and 9th December 2019 in various locations around the Maltese Islands.

Various choirs will participate in this festival, ranging from male, female, youth, gospel to folk choirs.

If you wish to learn more about this Festival, visit [this Facebook page](#).

Venue All Maltese Islands Organiser Giuseppe Corsaro

Restoration works on the oldest building in Mellieħa



Report: Antonia Micallef

distant villages en route to pray to Our Lady of Mellieħa. They would relax and rest in these rooms before starting their journey back home.

“The oldest part – the lower part – was built in 1599. The top part was built in two different stages in 1700 when the importance of the sanctuary continued to grow. Their importance stems from the fact that they are the oldest existing buildings in Mellieħa.”

Project Manager Mardeo Farrugia, said that works began in April with various interventions to strengthen the construction by making sure that the wall does not just out whilst taking care not to lose the aesthetic feel of this historic building. “Two thirds of the upper part is complete. The concrete platform which will serve as a cantilever to tie the wall has been done with studding from the top of the wall descending the length of two metres at a thickness of 50mm.”

He went on to say that this work phase will be completed in October. By the end of the year all work on the stone and ceilings will be completed, including the installation of services. The restoration inside the rooms will be done next year.

Upon completion of the entire project, nine of the lower rooms will serve as a Tool and Ancient Craft Museum. The rooms inside the courtyard will be used as the Sanctuary Museum, with one of the rooms dedicated to Pope John Paul II who visited this sanctuary in 1990.

At the end of this week, the feast of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mellieħa will be celebrated. The arch under which people pass to enter the courtyard and the sanctuary this year turns 300.

Restoration works on the oldest building in Mellieħa are underway – a complex consisting of eighteen rooms built to provide rest and relief to the pilgrims who would visit the sanctuary of Our Lady of Mellieħa.

The house was in bad shape, so much so that one of the walls was protruding outwards at a rate of one millimetre each week. The Parish got to work to save this legacy from collapse and to give it a new function linked to its history.

Although all the signs were there and studies on the best method of restoration method were in progress, the urgent need to do something about the pilgrims’ rooms in the courtyard of the Sanctuary became more apparent at the beginning of this year. The Mellieħa parish priest, Fr Joe Caruana, explained that the wall that abuts onto the Marfa Road was on the verge of collapse. “The wall had started jutting out and midway the situation had become alarming with more than seven inches abutting onto Marfa Road -it was in imminent danger of falling”

The rooms took on the names of the pilgrims because they served to welcome people from

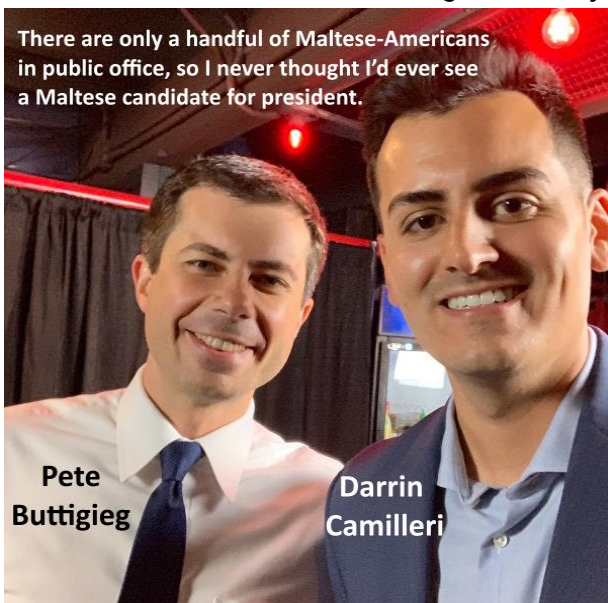




Rep. Darrin Camilleri

(D) District 23, Brownstown
Assistant Minority Caucus Leader

State Rep. Darrin Quiroz Camilleri is serving his first term representing the 23rd District, which includes the Downriver communities of Brownstown, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, Huron, Trenton and Woodhaven. At 24, he became the youngest Latino and first Maltese-American in Michigan's history to



**Pete
Buttigieg**

**Darrin
Camilleri**

serve in the state House. Camilleri sits on the Education Reform, Energy Policy, and Commerce and Trade committees. Prior to joining the Legislature, he was a high school social studies teacher in Detroit and a Parks and Recreation Commissioner in Brownstown Township.

Camilleri is a first-generation college graduate. He earned his degree from Kalamazoo College, and during his time there, he served as student body president, led the Michigan Federation of College Democrats and worked for Congressman John Dingell. He is a graduate of Gabriel Richard Catholic High School in Riverview.

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Darrin Camilleri our American-Maltese parliamentarian

He enjoys playing pick-up basketball, bowling, reading, traveling and spending time with his family. He is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Trenton and lives in Brownstown Township. This young politician of Maltese descent in Michigan state presented a resolution at the State's House aimed at enhancing the appreciation towards his culture roots.

Darrin Camilleri, a deputy leader of the Democratic Party in Michigan and representative of the State for 23 districts, proposed that the week between the 21st and 28th September is recognised as the Maltese-American Heritage Week.

Camilleri stated that although Malta is among the smallest countries in the world, its impact on the Michigan state is bigger than many people realize. Michigan has the largest concentration of Maltese migrants than any of the U.S. states.

With a Maltese father and a Mexican woman, Camilleri said that youths such as himself grew up in a multicultural society. He maintained that many Maltese-Americans want to keep the Maltese culture alive and that values of perseverance, loyalty and respect distinguish these communities.

Camilleri's resolution was unanimously approved by the House.

“I am proud to be a part of the Metro Detroit community, which boasts the largest concentration of Maltese-Americans in the United States,” said Camilleri, whose father emigrated from Malta. “Maltese-Americans have contributed greatly to our country's culture, quality of life and economic well-being through their leadership, work ethic, and dedication to their communities.”

Camilleri is the first Maltese-American state representative in Michigan history. In addition to his resolution, Camilleri presented the first annual 'Maltese-American of the Year' award to Ray Muscat, a city councilman on the Dearborn Heights City Council and member of the Maltese-American Community Club in Dearborn.

“Maltese-Americans like Ray have promoted the advancement of Maltese culture and Maltese-American people for generations,” Camilleri said. “I am glad we could join together today to celebrate his contributions, and the contributions of Maltese-Americans from across Michigan

Unique bakery discovered during extensive restoration at Auberge d'Aragon

An extensive restoration at the Auberge d'Aragon led to the discovery of a unique bakery and other historic remains of the Knights era. It is expected that once the restoration works are completed at the Auberge, the historic heritage will be kept uncovered and accessible as another unique attraction of the Capital City. The old bakery is thought to have been at the Auberge when this was built in 1571. It was discovered hidden under debris, most likely after a section of the building collapsed during the Sicilian earthquake of 1963, which was felt in Malta and caused great damage to the Auberge and the 'Madonna tal-



Pilar' church. The Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation chairman, Stefan Zrinzo Azzopardi, together with the Corporation's chief executive, said that when they looked at the old designs of Architect Girolamo Cassar and what was discovered during restoration, they noticed something which did not match. So they unearthed the upper floor's ground from one of the European Affairs Ministry's offices

and while descending, the bakery structure was uncovered. They believe that the bakery is unique in Valletta. European Affairs and Equality Minister Edwards Zammit Lewis, whose ministry is situated at the Auberge d'Aragon, said that the building is one of the most important in the capital.

Apart from maintaining its original design of Girolamo Cassar and it housed the knights of St John's Order, the Auberge also served as the office of two Prime Ministers – George Borg Olivier and Duminku Mintoff. The Auberge d'Aragon is scheduled as Grade One of National Monuments.



New council for the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation

The council of the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation for the years 2019-2020 is now composed of Wilfrid Buttigieg, President of the Council, Dr Philip Farrugia Randon, Mgr Louis Camilleri, Dr Ray Bondin and Mgr Victor Zammit McKeon, together with new council member

Mgr Prof. Emanuel Agius. Joe Gerada is the Council Secretary.

The members of St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation are responsible for this international treasure. The Foundation administers the church and museum in order to ensure its effective conservation and management as a historic and architectural monument, as well as a sacred place of worship.



Malta joins in world-wide demonstrations calling for immediate action on world climate

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrations, the majority of them youths today gathered

in various cities around the world in a protest to call for an immediate action in favour of world climate. In Malta, activists from environmental organisations gathered in Freedom Square, some of them lying on the ground in front of the Parliament building, as a symbol of what they described as the lack of action on climate. The activists called on Parliament to declare an emergency for world climate.

The protests, inspired by young activist Greta Thunberg, were held in 140 countries. Greta attended a New York protest during which over one million children were excused from schools to participate in the demonstration.

The protests are being held in the wake of a United Nations summit in New York in which world leaders will debate the climate change. The first demonstrations were held in Australia where an estimated 300,000 crowd participated in the protests. Australia is the largest exporter of coal and liquid gas.



An hour with
C. S. Lewis' stepson
Douglas Gresham

Public Talk

Series of talks resumes @ Il-Ħaġar

Il-Ħaġar museum in Victoria's Pjazza San Ġorġ has become well-known also for talks on a wide range of topics.

The first public lecture after the summer break is to be delivered by the stepson of famous author CS Lewis.

There is probably no need to

refer to, for example, Chronicles of Narnia, Space Trilogy, and Screwtape Letters.

Douglas Gresham, an actor and producer, has been studying and writing about Lewis and he will be talking about his adoptive father on Saturday 12 October at 11am. Entrance is, as always, free of charge. However, since places are obviously limited, it is recommended to reserve seats by emailing events@heartofgozo.org.mt.

Saturday 12 October 2019 | 11:00
Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo Museum

Free entrance
Seat reservations: events@heartofgozo.org.mt

www.heartofgozo.org.mt



You may read the Maltese eNewsletter – the Journal of the Maltese Diaspora at the Malta Migration Museum, St. Pauls Canadian-Maltese Archives – Toronto, on Facebook and Twitter, Gozo National Library and on the website www.ozmalta.com



Victor Zammit – Kappillan u Giovanni Cefai - Isqof

X'nostalgija! X'destin Qaddis! Fr. Edwin Agius MSSP appena kien mahtur Superjur tad-Dar Stella Maris fiż-Żebbuġ, Għawdex fl-1981, ftit wara, għal bidu ta' Frar, kien stieden lil Giovanni Cefai u Victor Zammit, Giovanni abbati fil-Parroċċa Arcipretali u Matriċi taż-Żebbuġ, Għawdex, filwaqt li Victor

ta' tfajjel li kien, kull Lulju kien jagħmel purċissjoni mid-dar tiegħu bil-Madonna. Dik il-ħabta Fr. Edwin kien haħdom miegħu għal Festa ta' Sant'Agata u qagħdu jdoqqu l-qniepen li hemm fil-kampnar tal-Kappella ta' Sant'Agata fir-Rabat, Malta, kif jindika r-ritratt.

38 sena wara, araw id-destin tal-Mulej, dawn iż-żewġ Żebbuġin, Għawdxin, Giovanni jinħatar Isqof għal Prelatura l-ġdida ta' Santiago Apóstol de Huancané, fil-provincja Eklessjastika ta' Arequipa, fil-Peru, filwaqt li siehbu Victor jinsab Kapillan tal-Parroċċa tas-Salib Imqaddes f'Acequia Alta fil-Peru wkoll. Grazzi mill-qalb lil haħib kbir tiegħi Fr. Edwin Agius MSSP li għaddieli dan ir-ritratt biex inkun nista naqsmu magħkom. Triqatek, Mulej, urini, l-mogħdijiet tiegħek għarrafni. Il-mogħdijiet tal-Mulej kollha tjieba u fedeltà għal dawk li jharsu l-patt u l-ligijiet tiegħu (Salm 24).



Team Malta Dominate as Karate Kids Take Home Gold At European Championship

Team Malta closed off the 6th Small States of Europe Karate Championship with 9 Gold, 4 Silver

and 12 Bronze medals.

Malta's national karate team competed in the Small States of Europe Karate Championships held in Iceland this week, going head to head with over 200 athletes from Luxembourg, Cyprus, Iceland, Monaco, San Marino and Liechtenstein.

Malta's karate kids put on an impressive performance throughout the competition, accumulating gold, silver and bronze medals which saw Team Malta finish in a respectable fourth place.

The Malta Karate Federation was chuffed by the results of their hardworking athletes, taking to Facebook to express how proud they were with the results.

“Fantastic results achieved by the National Team of The Malta Karate Federation in the Small States Karate Championships which were held in Iceland this year...Well done to all for all your hard work and dedication and thank you all for your love and support all throughout this incredible experience!”

Those taking home Gold include Kimberely Stanton; who competed in the ‘Female Kata’, and Sarah Galea; competing in the ‘Junior Kumite Female 59KG+’ category.

Galea’s victory marks her fifth consecutive gold medal in Kumite at the Small States of Europe Championships...

Other gold medalists include Jaydon Pollaccco; Cadet Kumite (57 KG), Matthew Vella; Junior Kata Male, Barbara Borg; Junior Kumite Female (48 KG), Jessica Vella; U14 Kata Female and U14 Kumite Female 42 KG, the Malta Male Kumite Junior Team and the Malta Female Kumite U14 team.

Congratulations to all other Maltese athletes who received silver and bronze and to Team Malta as a collective for putting on a great show and making our country proud!

Nostalgia

HISTORY OF MALTESE MIGRATION

PACIFICO CALLEJA - ONE OF THE UNSUNG HEROES

by Greg Caruana NSW

Pacifico Calleja was born in Mosta on the 17th April 1905. He was the third child with two older brothers and two younger sisters. His parents were Annunciato (Lonzu) Calleja (Tas-Siggijiet) and Teresa (Zeza) Bugeja.



He attended Mosta Boys’ School and finished year 6 Grade. He left school at the age of 12 years and went to work with his father as a assistant builder. Around May of 1921 Pacikk (as he was known) left Malta together with his dad Lonzu on the ship “*Empress of Asia*” and arrived in Ellis Island, New York Harbour, USA on 21st June 1921.



Pacifico and Teresa Caruana on their wedding day

Pacifico worked at Charles Restaurant (chain) for about nine and a half years. He started washing pots and pans and ended up as an assistant baker. He then went to work at Woolworths as a short-order cook for about 6 months. Then he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana for the next two years with his father’s brother Wenzu Calleja, who was a wine and spirit maker. In 1933, Pacifico returned to Malta, where he was more of an entrepreneur. He ordered two buses from Italy, which arrived as parts and he hired a mechanic to assist in the assembly. He painted these buses brown with lead paint as Mosta buses. He had a construction business with his brother

Karmnu. They also had a grocery store and a petrol station.

When war started in Malta in 1939, he converted three cars into trucks and leased them to the British Army. At the same time, he helped some of his friends get work, by allowing them to drive needed supply to the British troops that where in Malta.

On January 1942, Pacikk met Teresa Caruana. She was a refugee with her family in Mosta from war-torn Paula where she used to live. They got married on the 11th January 1942. Teresa and Pacific had 6 children: Lannie, Carmen, Tessie, Victor, Nancy and Mary. After the war, there was not much work in Malta, so Pacikk decided to migrate for the second time to the United States. His oldest brother Joe was a foreman at "Goodman Lumber" in San Francisco. And he offered him a job there.



Pacifico and his parents Annunziato and Tereza

In 1952, Teresa with five siblings Carmen, Tessie, Victor, Nancy and Mary returned to the United States via New York. Then Pacifico caught a plane from San Francisco to New York and the family returned to San Francisco by train. By then, the family grew with the addition of Joyce, Joe, Rita, George and Tony. Pacifico had to work really hard to provide for his family; he worked long days and did side jobs building fences and other odd jobs. In the meantime, he helped lots of people, especially his fellow

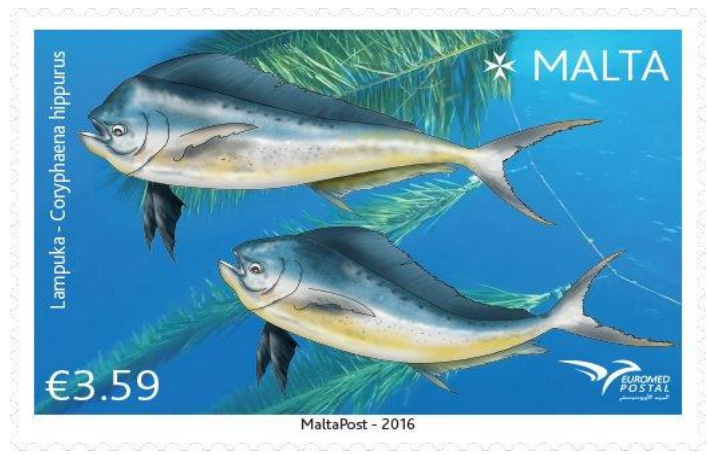
Maltese.

Pacifico and Teresa decided to return to Malta once he retired. So, on the 22nd of February 1968 Pacifico sent his wife Teresa along with their children Mary, Joyce, Joe, Rita, George and Tony, the youngest, to Malta on Pan American Airlines. On the 17th of April 1968, Pacific retired from work after 17 years with Goodman Lumber at the age of 63. He never had a sick day or a day vacation. He then flew to Malta, along with his daughter Carmen, about a week later. The family lived in Lija for a few months while their home was being built in Birkirkara; then on the 28th April 1973 their daughter Joyce got married and left to the States. Two weeks later, their son Joe left for San Francisco.

On January 1974, their daughters Carmen and Mary left for San Francisco, with everyone returning to the States and with Rita and George coming of age, the house being too big. In 1974. Pacific and Teresa were thinking of selling their house and buying a smaller one. But Tony the youngest one, now 14 years old, suggested that since everybody was returning to the States perhaps it was time to go back to the States. Pacifico and Teresa lived in San Francisco from 1974 to 1986. Then they moved to Federal Way, Washington.

The golden-hearted Pacific passed away on 2nd May 1993 at great age of 89 years. Theresa lived there in Washington till 2000. Then she moved to New York and lived there, until she was 84 years of age. On the 4th of January 2004, she passed away to go and be united with her beloved husband Pacifico.

This incredible loving couple worked hard to maintain their family and they bestowed their love wherever they were. These are my loving Ziju Pacikk, and my Zija Teresa. Which I am pretty sure they are enjoying eternal rest. Greg Caruana





How Valletta's most iconic street is once again the beating heart of the capital

"I remember Strada Stretta how it used to be, in the late 1950s and 1960s, as the hub of Maltese culture full of cabarets, theatre and jazz," he reminisces. "I also remember the competition between live bands from different bars like the 'Las Vegas', the

'Cotton Club,' and the 'Adam and Eve'. For us Valletta residents, it was a very entertaining area."

AN UNCONVENTIONAL HOME It was, nevertheless, an unconventional area to be brought up in, although for Giuseppe, it was all rather normal. "Growing up, it was impossible not to go there, but I do remember a distinct distance between the area we lived in at the Due Balli end and going up to my uncles and aunties' further up the street (and hence closer to the entertainment part), but we got used to it. There was a very neat separation between the daily business and residents living there," reminisces Giuseppe.

"There was an unwritten competition between Strada Stretta and Premier Cafe, which used to be situated where Cafe Cordina is today," he adds.

After the British Forces left Malta in the late 1970s, Strada Stretta, along with the rest of Valletta, started dying out, and by the early 1980s, the capital was "quite a dead city". Hard to believe, seeing it now basking in the limelight as the reigning European Capital of Culture!

Giuseppe recognised Strada Stretta's artistic potential quite prematurely, when he launched his own theatre company with the name Teatru Strada Stretta back in the early 1990s. He admitted at the time people were surprised with the link to the infamous street. "I was trying my best to show a different kind of theatre production, uniting high classical art with open popular art and spaces," explains Giuseppe.

THE STRADA STRETTA CONCEPT It was the "modest" (by his own admission) success of Teatru Strada Stretta and his passion for art as well his personal interest in the street that led to Giuseppe being asked by Government to create a strategy and an objective for the regeneration of Strait Street. And so the [Strada Stretta Concept](#) was born.

"We started a very ambitious programme of alternative theatre and events alongside traditional

The infamous former red-light district is enjoying a new lease of life, harking back to its roots as the entertainment hub of the city.

Adriana Bishop

There was a time when Strait Street, or Strada Stretta as the locals refer to it, was known around the world thanks to its reputation for providing relief and entertainment, to put it politely, to countless foreign sailors and soldiers stationed on these shores.

Countless too are the stories that emanate from Valletta's narrowest street, if only those walls could talk! But Strait Street was not just Malta's most famous red light district. It was a veritable entertainment hub, a bohemian centre where artistic freedom reigned supreme, and where some of the island's finest musicians of the classical age honed their talent and found fame.

NOT JUST ANY OLD STREET It was home not just to barmaids and artists, but also to lawyers, priests, Malta's first saint, and several families, including that of Dr Giuseppe Schembri Bonaci, who today is Strada Stretta's artistic director. For yes, this eclectic street is not just any old street. It has its own unique identity, which is now being developed into a brand synonymous with quality, alternative artistic entertainment under the guidance of its former resident.

The regeneration of Strada Stretta was part of the regeneration of the rest of the capital, but for Giuseppe, this has been something of a personal journey too.

"I am from this area, I was brought up in the Due Balli region of Strada Stretta which is the lower part of the street towards the sea, so for me the regeneration of the street has a personal and emotional aspect," admits Giuseppe, who is also a lecturer in art and art history at the University of Malta.

events,” says Giuseppe. Among the many jazz evenings, cabaret, poetry and music events, Strada Stretta Concept also stages an annual classical opera on 24th November, produced and directed in an inimitable unique and creative format as far removed from the traditional operatic sense as you can imagine.

This “bizarre” approach is intentional, and sits perfectly with the bohemian character and history of the street, where everything and anything was permissible and people were free to explore their artistic talents.

“Everything has to be strange otherwise it is not interesting,” states Giuseppe, and that is pretty much the driving philosophy of the artistic productions of Strada Stretta Concept.

“There was more to Strada Stretta than the red light district. It is very important to underline that although what I am doing seems to be far removed from what it used to be, it is all based on how I remember Strada Stretta - as a hub full of excellent artistic action and a creative world. We have put it on a different level now, a higher level,” says Giuseppe who went on to explain that red light districts developed in the cities as alternative zones.

“Frontier urban zones turn into bohemian red light districts and are a source of cultural power, of artistic strength. Every artist has to have some kind of link with these zones as they provide an alternative to a normal, traditional way of living. Strada Stretta was quite free and very tolerant. People living there were used to a mosaic of different values,” he adds.

A NEW GOLDEN AREA Strait Street is now living a new golden era. New bars and restaurants are

opening where old establishments used to be, new boutique hotels are sprouting and property prices are naturally sky-rocketing. The street is once again an entertainment hub and a very trendy one at that - the place to be seen. But Giuseppe is not so keen on this “trendy-isation” of “his” street.

“Big money is not always coupled with great taste or great art. Kitsch is coming in with some architectural changes which are ridiculous,” he complains. “But it is useless to fight it. I am trying to fight it by retaining the totalitarian quality of my productions. If I am doing high quality events, hopefully it might push this ‘trendy-isation’ into at least trying to co-opt such an approach.”

“I don’t want Strada Stretta to retain a museum façade,” Giuseppe insists. “I want Strada Stretta to become a cultural, artistic hub offering alternative art.”

Giuseppe is now looking ahead beyond Valletta 2018 and is aiming at creating events that have a ripple effect on the rest of the island. “We need to create a structure in which such alternative events could have more permanent continuation and not just retain them as a one-off modest success. We need a structural approach to achieve this, bridging the university, MCAST and other entities. I am dreaming of creating a cobweb between different local councils in Malta and Gozo so that what is happening in Strada Stretta can be ‘exported’ elsewhere.”

Ultimately, Giuseppe’s goal is to see Strada Stretta become a brand name, a byword for a particular type of “entertainment” and to provide new structural developments to continue creating alternatives, “whatever those alternatives are.”



A festival of flowers, fragrance and colour – Indian festival in Malta

Maria Muscat

The Indian Community in Malta from the state of Kerala celebrated the Onam festival, a very important festival in the Indian calendar, meaning abundance, wealth and happiness. The Indian community in Malta has risen to 2,500, the majority of

whom are from Kerala. Men and women wear traditional colours and the scent of flowers and aromatic fragrance is ever present.

Greeting us at the door were women lined up in a row, ready to put a symbol on the forehead of anyone who attends -the traditional symbol referred to as Chandal Tilak, welcomes everyone who attends. Women, who are happy, wear their best dresses called ‘Sari’. The men, who also wear colored clothing, are happy that even if they far from home, can still celebrate their culture and their religion.



Great few hours catching up with Raymond, an old friend, now the Maltese Consul General in Toronto, the lovely Carmen, and my favourite Maltese Canadian couple, Charlie & Antoinette, owners of the Malta Bake Shop! with Charlie Paul Buttigieg, Antoinette Buttigieg, Marlene and Noel Scicluna, Raymond C. Xerri and Carmen Galea at Malta Bake Shop Ltd.

MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD ARE PROUD OF THEIR HOMELAND AND HERITAGE AND THIS JOURNAL IS DEDICATED TO THEM



The Melton Maltese Seniors Group was established in January 2016 by like minded local Maltese community members in the Melton region. All are welcome to join us every 2nd Friday from 10am to 2pm at the Botanica Springs community centre Clark Road Melton Victoria. The gathering involves good company, conversation and sharing some refreshments and a cup of tea and coffee. all backgrounds welcome .



Above: Volunteers like Joe Tanti and Mario Sammut were busy painting all replica buildings in limestone colour. photograph ziggy lewis

Miniature replicas of 15 well-known Maltese buildings will be on display when the Maltese Museum opens in Morwell in February 2020. Transformation of the former home of the Morwell Pigeon Club into everything familiar to the Maltese community started in February this year.

Malta's honorary vice consul for the Latrobe Valley and Maltese Community Centre president Mario Sammut said the replica buildings, including a model of the Royal Opera House that was destroyed during the Second World War, were donated by artist Charlie Camilleri.

Mr Sammut said another interesting model was the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Mosta which was at one time the third-biggest free-standing dome in the world. The building miraculously survived the war when a bomb failed to explode after hitting the dome.

He said Mr Camilleri, who passed away eight months ago, donated the miniature buildings to the Maltese museum when the project was announced last year.

"He tried to sell them and he said he was offended with the prices that [people] were offering to him so when he got to know that we're building a museum he just said 'you can keep them'," Mr Sammut said.

He said volunteers were busy painting all models in the limestone colour which is common in Malta.

Spirit of Malta captured in tiny buildings in Morwell, Victoria

Mr Sammut said the museum would also feature a replica of a Maltese fishing boat called luzzu, traditional costumes, newsletters, model knights and symbols of the Order of the Knights of Saint John, and traditional cooking utensils that were brought by the first Maltese immigrants to Australia.



Mr Sammut said it took a lot of work to rebuild the site as it was in a bad state but grants from Latrobe Valley Authority and Latrobe City Council meant they were able to hire a couple of local builders to do the job with help from volunteers.

Mr Sammut said the facility would be the only Maltese museum outside of Malta.

He hoped to inspire the younger Maltese generation to visit the museum and learn more about their culture.

Mr Sammut said he was also hoping that other ethnic groups would follow the Maltese community's lead in promoting their culture.

"If this is successful I want the other ethnic communities to do this. We'll give them the facility at this stage. Perhaps other ethnic communities can have their own exhibition [here] and maybe from there they might be prompted to have their own," he said. Mr Sammut said he would also look into linking up with the state tourist board so tourists could see and visit the museum and other sites in Morwell.

THE FR. ROB GALEA STORY: NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A MOTHER'S PRAYER



Lori Hadacek Chaplin (2018) Catholic Digest

For three years, Anne Galea's son, Rob, 17, had been out of control. She felt helpless watching him spiral downward. Unbeknownst to Rob, she would stand outside his bedroom door and pray as she listened to him sob. Praying was all she could do for her son because he wouldn't let her help him. One day, the pain she felt for her suffering son brought her to her knees. She cried out to God that she would not get up until he saved her son. She begged for mercy for Rob, beseeching the Blessed Mother to be her son's mother and to carry him to Jesus.

Through her tears, she beheld in her mind's eye a picture of Rob surrounded by a group of young

people. In this vision, her son was playing a guitar and singing and around his neck was a priest's collar. Anne's son didn't sing or own a guitar, and for him to become a priest would be a miracle.

Growing up

Rob Galea and his two siblings had an idyllic childhood, growing up on the beautiful Mediterranean island of Malta. The Galeas spent a lot of time on the beach and in the water. Almost every Sunday, the Galea children saw their grandparents.

Rob's carefree happiness started to disappear in primary school when two of his grandparents died in a short period of time. He couldn't understand why his life had to change.

On top of the pain of loss, Rob experienced bullying in school. His classmates mocked him for his appearance, and he was friendless. Things got a little better when he changed schools, but it was too late.

Photo courtesy of Ave Maria Press.

"My self-esteem was wrecked. I was convinced that I was worthless," writes Fr. Galea in his autobiography, *Breakthrough: A Journey from Desperation to Hope* (Ave Maria Press, 2018).

Wrong crowd

When Rob was 14, he wanted nothing to do with his parents, especially his father. He began sneaking out to clubs, drinking, smoking, lying, and shoplifting for an adrenaline high. Then he fell into the wrong crowd and started doing drugs. When he was 17, a malicious lie he told about a drug dealer put his life in danger, and he was afraid to leave his room.

Rob, consumed with worry and loneliness, felt hopeless.

"As I knelt restlessly on my bed, I saw only two ways out of my misery. One was for someone, somewhere, to reach out and somehow save me, or two, to end my own life," Fr. Galea writes.

He was in such a debilitated mental state that he would punch himself in the gut and hit his head against the wall to distract himself from thinking.

He thought no one cared — not realizing that his mother was begging for the Lord to save him.

Lifeline

A phone call from his surviving grandmother inviting Rob's sister, Rachel, to a Catholic youth group meeting was the lifeline that Rob needed. He asked his mom if he could go with his sister. At that meeting, he witnessed the happiness of people who loved Christ, and he wanted to experience their joy. The preacher had told the group that they could talk to Jesus. Rob grew up in a Catholic home, but he never felt that God had time for him.

Even so, what the preacher said caused him to do something unusual. He closed his bedroom door and set up two chairs facing each other. Rob sat in one chair and invited Jesus to sit in the other. Every day, he would talk to Jesus as if he was sitting in the chair across from him — praying and pouring out his problems. In one of those prayer sessions, the other chair was no longer empty.

“[S]omething kept me waiting in silent prayer for longer than usual, and that’s when God spoke back,” Fr. Galea says in his book.

When Rob opened his eyes, he saw Jesus.

“It was like the Holy Spirit had chosen that moment to help me get rid of the inner fury, loneliness, and regret that was still left in my heart,” he writes.

Priesthood

Rob continued to grow closer to God, and though he first resisted, he eventually entered seminary and, in 2010, became a parish priest in Australia. He also co-founded a youth movement called the Stronger Youth program and became a recording artist. Many will remember that he appeared on Australia’s version of *X-Factor* and performed at World Youth Day.

Fr. Galea’s journey from a hoodlum to musician priest is a fascinating one, and Hollywood thinks so, too. Film producers have purchased the rights to his recently published book, *Breakthrough*.

Never stop praying and hoping

Beyond Fr. Rob’s exciting story, for me, one of the most important messages is for parents. For all of those moms and dads out there thinking that there is no hope for a seemingly lost child, this priest’s story offers hope and encouragement. It reminds us never to stop praying for our children.



We had a great opportunity and the pleasure to meet the young Maltese priest and musician Fr Rob Galea at the Preca Community in Adelaide, Australia
Keep up the good work Fr Rob! — Robert and Lorraine D'Amato and family

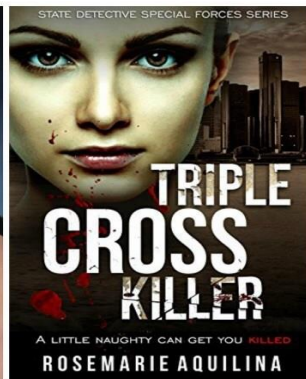
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER  Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Building Bridges



**MALTESE EVERYWHERE
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AMERICAN/MALTESE JUDGE ROSEMARIE AQUILINA SPECIAL GUEST OF THE 2019 MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina

The National Book Council is pleased to present Judge Rosemarie Aquilina as the main guest of the 2019 Malta Book Festival.

Aquilina, daughter of a Maltese father and German mother, both emigrants, is most notable for presiding over the 2018 USA Gymnastics sex abuse scandal, which found former Olympic doctor Larry Nassar guilty of sexually abusing 156 girls and women over the previous two decades.

The way she guided the court hearings and her strong language directed to the accused made the headlines, but the most significant part was when she allowed 140 victims tell their story in front of the aggressor.

Outside of her usual working schedule, Judge Aquilina is very vociferous and active in issues regarding sexual abuse and the dignity of human beings. Amongst others, she was instrumental in amending a statute so as to make things harder for child abusers in the future.

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina is also a writer, and has two crime novels to her name: *Feel No Evil* (2003, Porch Swing Press) and *Triple Cross Killer* (2017, Fiery Seas Publishing).

The public attending the Malta Book Festival will have the opportunity to meet this year's special guest during activities dedicated to her both as a writer but also as a very strong supporter of human rights. **The Malta Book Festival is running from 6 to 10 November, and is held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.**



Xaghra commemorates the two victories of 1565 and 1943

Gozo News

Lorraine Schembri Orland sworn in as European Court of Human Rights judge



Madam Justice Lorraine Schembri Orland was sworn in as a judge to the European Court of Human Rights.

She is the first ever female judge on the European Court of Human Rights from Malta.

Present for the swearing-in ceremony, held in Strasbourg, was Chief Justice Emeritus and outgoing Judge for Malta on the European Court of Human Rights Vincent Degaetano and Mrs Degaetano.

Madam Justice Schembri Orland was appointed to the bench in 2012. She presided over the Civil Court, First Hall

which has civil competence, as well as original jurisdiction in matters of Fundamental Human Rights as guaranteed by the Maltese Constitution and by the European Convention on Human Rights. She also presided over the Civil Court (Voluntary Jurisdiction) which is competent in matters of probate, minority, interdiction and incapacitation, guardianships, trusts, foundations and cross border successions,

In 1976-1981, she concluded her University of Malta - Doctorate of Laws (LL.D.). In 1994-1996 she concluded her Magister Juris in European Law -(M.Jur.) (Eur. Law) from the University of Malta.

Between 1988-1990, she was an elected member to the Executive Board of the Conseil International des Femmes (ICW). Between 1991-1993, she was a member of drafting committee entrusted with broad legislative reforms to the Constitution of Malta and to the ordinary law in order to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender as part of Malta's process of accession to the UN CEDAW Convention.

Prior to becoming a Judge, she had held positions with The European Council of Women, was a member of the National Consultative Committee on Bioethics, was a member of the founding committee of San Blas Drug Rehabilitation Centre set up by Caritas (Malta), and others.

1.8 million passengers, 550,000 cars cross to Gozo during summer



More than 1.8 million passengers and 550,000 cars crossed over to Gozo during summer, figures released by Gozo Channel show. This meant a 3.4% and 7.7% increase respectively.

In all, 8,386 trips were operated, a Gozo Ministry statement said. For the first time, four ships were operated on the Malta-Gozo route.

Gozo Minister Justyne Caruana said that although summer is always a peak season for Gozo Channel, we have reached a stage where there are also challenges to overcome in all other seasons because Gozo has become a tourist attraction all year round.

Several activities are held during the shoulder months which have led to an increase in traffic between the two islands, she said. Joe MuscaT, CEO of Gozo Tourist Association said that summer brought positive results to Gozo. and the prospects for October and November also look good.

If you have a story to tell .. share it with others and send it to us

Historical cities should have their own PA board' - construction magnate

Anglu Xuereb calls for specialised board for Valletta, Mdina and others



Cities such as Valletta should have a separate, specialised Planning Authority board to process development applications, according to Anglu Xuereb. Photo: Mark Zammit Cordina

The Planning Authority should have a separate, specialised board to process applications for development in historical cities, such as Valletta, Mdina and the Ċittadella in Gozo, according to construction magnate Anglu Xuereb.

The hotelier believes such a board, composed of people who are qualified and knowledgeable in the field, would give these cities an added level of protection as well as reduced bureaucracy for those investing there.

Mr Xuereb floated the idea last week during the opening of his latest five-star hotel in Valletta, Rosselli – AX Privilege.

“Having a good knowledge and understanding what it means to develop and work in Valletta, I urge the Planning Authority to create another board, specifically for our historic cities which include Valletta, Vittoriosa, parts of the Cottonera cities, Mdina and the Ċittadella in Gozo,” he told the audience.

Speaking to The Sunday Times of Malta about the idea, Mr Xuereb explained that the board could be made up of architects and conservationists who can understand the difficulties of each application and take justified decisions, while respecting the historic values.

“Property prices in these areas are very high and any developer has the same aspiration – to create a beautiful high-quality project. I feel confident that the ultimate aim to create a well-balanced, beautiful building is also shared by all of the board’s members.

“All of these projects would need constant monitoring and quick decisions taken by the same board when needed. Time is of great essence in these sensitive cities, both for its return on the investment, as well as for the neighbours and the impact projects could have on tourism,” he said.

“It doesn’t make sense to have a board deciding on projects of high heritage value also taking decisions on a terraced house in Naxxar or a block of flats in Birkirkara,” he added.

The Rosselli involved a €15 million investment in the restoration and development of a 17th-century palazzo in Merchants Street into a luxury hotel housing 25 designer suites.

Mr Xuereb said his latest hotel was part of his long-term plan for the regeneration of Valletta. Three decades ago, Mr Xuereb published his master plan for Valletta which included the regeneration of old buildings into boutique hotels, the creation of pedestrian zones and implementation of measures to attract residents back to the city.

Two years ago, Mr Xuereb published an updated version with a 10-year-plan which included a set of underground tunnels linking the city to other cities.

He also suggested an extensive tunnel network for Valletta and its surroundings, such as a network connecting the Porte des Bombe

TIMES OF MALTA



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Building Bridges between individuals and communities



Editor: Frank L Scicluna

maltesejournal@gmail.com

My name is Rena (Nazarena) Xuereb, and I am the youngest of seven children. My father, John Xuereb, (Ganni ta Grima) left for the United States in 1950 and quickly secured a job at Ford Motor Co., earning \$2.00 an hour working in the hot coke ovens. My father managed to purchase a car and a home near St. Anne's Catholic Church, all while renting a room from a Maltese lady names Sara in Corktown.

Ten months later he sent for us. My mother Josephine (Giuseppa) Gauci Xuereb hesitated because that would mean she would be leaving her oldest child Marija Xuereb Gatt, who was married with two small boys. She resentfully left her island, left her family, left her eldest child not knowing she would ever see her again.

Passports were in order and in June of 1951 we left for the States. Picture thirteen days on a ship with six children from 19 to 4 years of age! Let me point out that none of us spoke English and some were severely seasick the whole trip. We made it to the Port of New York then arrived in Detroit by train, with my father waiting for us.

We moved to the Holy Redeemer area a year later, and since there was a large concentration of Maltese in Detroit we never felt like immigrants, everyone was like us. Mothers kept cooking Maltese foods, pastizzi were a staple. Men would dress in suits and hang out on Sundays. The downtown Detroit Maltese Club on Michigan Ave. was the glue that kept everyone together. We had Maltese priests like Fr. Cefai, Fr. Cini, and now Fr. Joe Mallia who were and are a big part of our community. We had social functions at the club, everyone was happy. A second Maltese Club in Dearborn opened its doors in the 1980s to accommodate the families moving out to the suburbs. We slowly adjusted to our new home and our new surroundings. My brother stated we were in America and had to start speaking in English. I was the youngest and just turned 4 years old, I can't recall anything about Malta or our ship experience. Although I have no past memory of Malta as a child before we left, my heart never left.

My parents eventually started going to Malta every couple of years, enjoying their time with family and their oldest daughter they hadn't seen for years. I find myself going to Malta several times a year with my husband Fernando Campos who also loves Malta. Maybe I'm trying to make up for those first few years of my life, trying to fill the gap. Each and every time I get my first view of my Malta from the plane my hair stands up and as soon as I'm on land I feel like I've never left.

When in Malta I'm asked where I'm from because of my American accent. I jokingly say St. Paul's Bay



knowing damn well they mean where am I living. Then they ask again, Canada? Australia? I say no, America. I've had my dual citizenship for a number of years now and I find people in Malta say, oh your not Maltese because you left so young. They might as well stab me with a dagger, that hurts terribly. I immediately pull out my Maltese passport and ask them what does that say? I have so much pride in my Maltese heritage that I do a lot of research. My family line goes back 12 and 13 generations to the 1500s, so don't tell me I'm not Maltese.

Then just the opposite, I get Americans who say you were born here right? They are quite shocked when I tell them no, in fact, I was born on the island of Malta. Sometime I get, where is that? Fortunate for me, that's when I can start bragging like a historian about history, temples, beaches, sunshine and on and on.

The Xuereb children, in birth order, returned to Malta in 1998 for their sister's 50th Wedding Anniversary. From left to right is Mary, Grace, Joe, Victor, Frank, Dolores, and Rena.

My family, minus my mother, all became American citizens. In 1967, I was sworn in and felt a great sense of pride. Our recent trip to the State Capitol brought out that pride once again with all the Maltese presence and those in spirit. Seeing all those people there, hearing Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci sing both the American and Maltese national anthems. Watching our first Maltese legislator Darrin Camilleri give a history of Malta and our contributions to Detroit, then introducing a resolution to declare September 21 as Maltese American Heritage Day in the State of Michigan -- the same day we recognize Malta's independence. Once again my hair stood up as if I was flying over Malta and seeing it for the first time.

Rena Xuereb lives in The City of Belleville, MI with her husband Fernando Campos. They have six children and four grandchildren. She is a member of the

Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn where she is a trustee on the executive board. Rena is currently working on a book, entitled "Courage of a Maltese Immigrant." She wants to share stories her

mother passed on to her and her siblings, regarding life in Malta and the courage it took to eventually leave the island.

He remembers the wreck of the 'Angel Gabriel'

Keith Demicoli

On 23rd September, 1969, Malta was caught in the fury of one of the greatest gales ever.



On that day the 20,000 tonnes Greek tanker 'Angel Gabriel' had been anchored for three days off Marsascala Point waiting to enter the Dockyard for repairs.

The early morning gale was so strong that its anchors proved to be insufficient and the second anchor loosened, the tanker's engines were switched on but the tanker was dragged and crashed on the first reef. According to the ship's captain there was a great explosion in the hold.

Joe Baldacchino who at the time was in the Royal Air Force remembers the event as if it happened yesterday when just before 10 am ten British personnel and six Maltese were urgently called to the scene to go to Marsascala and enter the waters with tow ropes. Their main aim was to help rescue the 34 persons on board the tanker including a young woman and her young child.

Baldacchino said they formed a human chain clutching a rope with one hand and clutching a descending crew member with the other and passing them from hand to hand.

He remembers the rescue operation to have been fraught with danger and at about 12.10 in the afternoon they had to abandon the operation as the huge waves almost caused the tanker to topple over on them.

He said one wave was so huge it swept over the vessel and moved it. The rope broke and all plunged into the sea. He said he managed to surface and prayed to our Lady to save him. The rope drifted and he watched others surfacing as the ship had been abandoned. A young 18-year-old sailor had died in the incident as the ship reefed and in a state of panic he jumped overboard, struck the rocks and drowned.

Although 50 years have elapsed, Baldacchino, now 73, said it is something he will never forget. He said that each time he passes in the locality, near where the Jerma Palace was, he sees a dark picture and the tanker broken in two.

The whole event is remembered in the gallantry and courage of Joe Baldacchino and others as well as other Maltese, British and Americans involved who for several hours challenged the raging seas, driving winds and furious winds to rescue the tanker's crew.



A good year for the production of olive oil

Glen Falzon

Rain and the absence of strong winds served as manna from Heaven for farmers cultivating olive trees, enabling them to grow and produce substantially more olives than last year. At the start of the olive cropping season and their crushing to produce olive oil, it was announced that once more the folklore festival 'Żejt iż-

Żejtun' will once more be organised. Thomas Cauchi who crushes and produces oil said this year has resulted in substantial rainfall and a lack of strong winds that cause damage to olive blossoms.

Farmer Ivin Spagnol has been cutting olives and crushing them for the last ten years. He said that just as France is famous for its wines, Malta is famous for its olives and olive oil because these require high levels of humidity and Malta is humid. Olive oil is not only good because of its taste.

Spagnol said it contains beneficial fats, is good for health as well as good tasting.

Localities like Żejtun have a special relationship with olives ... so much that olive oil is part of the folklore festival for the 13th edition of 'Żejt iż-Żejtun'.



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LURA LEJN L-ISKOLA

Kollox lura għan-normal!

*Mill-korrispondent tagħna Kav Joe M Attard Victoria
Għawdex Settembru 2019*

“Kollox lura għan-normal!” qalli ħabib tiegħi dawn il-jiem wara li issa ħalla warajh il-bajja ta’ Marsalforn u reġa ngabar r-Rabat billi issa spiċċaw in-nofs ta’ nhari u uliedu reġgħu lura lejn l-iskola. Sabiħ is-sajf għal min jagħraf igawdih kif għandu jkun u s-servizz tal-buses lejn il-bajjiet tagħna kien wieħed tajjeb. Imma hej kemm kont noħroġ ta’ spiss iddisgustat nara telgħin fuq il-‘bus’ zgħażaġħ nofshom lebsin wara xi għawma, ħafna drabi jtkellmu kif ġie ġie bla ma ħadd jiġbdilhom l-attenzjoni! L-istess kont tilmaħ fit-toroq tagħna, din id-darba mhux biss Għawdxin imma wkoll barranin li donnu għalihom xejn mhux xejn u s-serjeta’ ma teżisix! Ħadt gost nisma’ lil Mons Rużar Borġ jagħmel riferenza għal dan l-abbuż waqt l-Omelija li kien għamel sena minnhom waqt Konċelebrazzjoni fil-Wied ta’ Marsalforn bħala parti mill-kampanja favur id-Deċenza! Ma nistgħux inħallu kollox għaddej bla ma nerfġu subgħajna. Fil-knejjes tagħna wkoll ġie li lmaħt nies deħlin lebsin perpura. Dan m’għandux ikun.

Intant, wara l-waqfa tas-sajf, reġgħu fetħu beraħ il-bibien ta’ l-iskejjel għal għadd kbir ta’ studenti li jiffrekwentaw il-primarji, is-sekondarji, l-MCAST u s-6th Form. Nifhem u nemmen bi sħiħ li daww li jixtiequ jittgħallmu, issa jkun herqana biex jerġgħu lura lejn il-bankijiet tal-klassi għax jafu li minn hawn tiddependi l-karriera u l-futur tagħhom. Żgur li sa ssib oħrajn li forsi jhossuhom li sejrjn lura kontra

qalbhom, iżda kemm huwa sewwa kieku jirrealizzaw ftit kemm huwa importanti t-tagħlim għall-ħajja tal-bniedem! Veru li mhux kulħadd se jaqla’ ħobżu bil-pinna, iżda kemm hu essenzjali li tkun taf tikteb ismek u kunjomok bil-kumditu’ u timla formola bla għajnuna ta’ ħadd! W allura hemm bżonn li l-istudenti kollha issa jagħrfu l-ħtieġa li wara l-jiem ta’ mistrieħ u divertiment, waslet mill-ġdid is-sieġha li jmiddu għonqhom għax-xogħol, jagħmlu ħilithom kollha biex id f’id ma’ l-għalliema tagħhom jissuktaw fit-triq tal-progress biex għada pitgħada dan pajjiżna jkompli jstagna u jfur b’ċittadini serji u ntelligenti li jagħmlulu unur u jkunu kapaċi jkomplu jmexxuh ‘l quddiem.


Ħafna mill-iskejjel ingħataw *face-lift* matul il-vaganzi tas-sajf u dan ikompli jgħin biex jinħoloq ambjent sabiħ u li jilqgħek matul il-jiem tal-Ħarifa li tinsab magħna. Sewwa kieku ssir xi ħaġa biex l-iskola Primarja tal-Vajringa teħdilha postha xi skola ġdida u moderna għax din issa għadda żmienha. Maġenb il-kumpless il-qadim tal-Liceo Ninu Cremona fil-Belt Victoria, li issa qed jinbidel fi struttura ġdida, għandna l-iskola ġdida - “state of the art” – li bla dubju qed tkompli tipprovdi post tajjeb u adekwat lil mijiet ta’ studenti subien li jiġu hawn minn Għawdex kollu. Tmiss magħha għandna wkoll ‘extension’ tas-6th Form li sa tkompli tgħin fl-edukazzjoni tal-istudenti tagħna qabel ma jirfsu fuq l-għatba tal-

Universita'. L-istess nistgħu ngħidu għal Konservatorju ta' l-Isqof wara San Franġisk, li daħal fi spisa enormi biex hawnhekk ikollna wkoll skola sekondarja għal bniet li tixraq lit-tfajliet Għawdxin. Minn hawn irrid nifrah lis-Sur Daniel Cassar, il-Kap tal-iskola postsekondarja tas-6th Form Victoria li qed jagħmel minn kollox biex jagħti dehra ġdida lil din l-iskola u jmessiha fuq linji moderni kif jitolbu ż-żmenjiet. Naturalment il-binja tal-ġebel mhux kollox. Huma l-istudenti integri u għaqlin li jagħmlu l-iskola xi haġa haġja flimkien ma' l-istaff u l-amministrazzjoni.

Nemmen li bit-tibdil li qed isir fis-sistema tal-klassijiet (streaming) u ta' l-eżamijiet, jista' jkollna riżultati aħjar u li jirriflettu fuq l-intelligenza u l-andament ta' l-istudenti. Bla dubju l-qofol ta' kollox jibqgħu dejjem l-istudenti li jridu jagħrfu s-siwi ta' l-istudju u l-imġiba tagħhom għax kif jgħid il-qawl Ingliż: *'You can take a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink!'* Inutli l-Gvern u l-Knisja jagħmlu hilitom biex jagħtuna l-aqwa edukazzjoni jekk imbagħad l-istudenti tagħna ma jwegħbu għas-sejfa, imma jintilfu wara l-ġiri u d-divertiment. Trid twaħħal moħħok hemm u tbat biex tirnexxi għax xejn ma jsir bla saġrificċju. U l-istudent Għawdxin jrid

ibati hafna iktar speċjalment meta jasal biex jissokta l-istudju tiegħu fil-Universita' għax irid jinfatam mill-familja, ifittex akkomodazzjoni f'Malta u jara kif se jagħmel biex jiekol u jaħsel hwejġu, iqum kmieni biex jivjaġġa kemm fis-sħana kif ukoll fil-baħar imqalleb u l-piż finanzjarju li joħloq fuq spallejn il-ġenituri tiegħu, iktar u iktar jekk tkun xi pensjonant bħali b'paga waħda li trid iġġebbidha sew biex tlaħhaq! Grazzi għal Ministeru t'Għawdex, xi hadd qalli li dawn ta' linqas jipprovdu xi haġa tal-flus biex tittfaffa din il-problema.

Insellem lil tant għalliema (darba kont wieħed minnhom!) ddedikati li jagħmlu hilitom biex dak li jafu jgħadduh lil haddieħor u fil-klassi jkun veri hbieb u misserijiet ta' l-istudenti u mhux sempliċement impjegati qegħdin hemm għas-salarju ta' l-aħħar tax-xahar. It-tagħlim huwa missjoni li trid tittiehed bis-serjeta' u bil-għaqal jekk irridu tassew il-ġid tal-istudenti tagħna. Awguri mill-qalb lil dawk kollha mill-għatba 'l ġewwa ta' l-iskola! Jalla meta tintemm is-sena skolastika kulhadd ikun jista' jħares lura b'sodisfazzjoni u jkompli dejjem jonqos in-numru ta' dawk l-istudenti li jkollhom jagħmlu xi *re-si*

 **United Nations Association of Australia SA Division**

2019 UNITED NATIONS DAY DINNER

13 OCT 2019
6.30PM
NATIONAL WINE CENTRE

Save the date for the UNAA UNITED NATIONS DAY DINNER.

GUEST SPEAKER: GAVIN WANGANEEN
Gavin Wanganeen is an Australian Football League (AFL) legend, acclaimed contemporary Aboriginal artist and a passionate supporter of Indigenous empowerment.

INCLUDING THE LAUNCH OF THE UNAA RECONCILIATION PLAN

WHERE: National Wine Centre Hackney Road Adelaide
DRESS CODE: Smart Casual
COST: \$85 pp including 2 bottles of Wine for Table of 10
ENQUIRIES: Lidia Moretti | sapres@unaa.org.au

TICKETS: www.trybooking.com/BFETR

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

