

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

OUR MOTTO: BUILDING BRIDGES

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## THE SISTINE CHAPEL VATICAN

The **Sistine Chapel** (/ˌsɪstɪn ˈtʃæpəl/; Latin: *Sacellum Sixtinum*; Italian: *Cappella Sistina* is a chapel in the Apostolic Palace, the

official residence of the Pope, in Vatican City. Originally known as the *Cappella Magna*, the chapel takes its name from Pope Sixtus IV, who restored it between 1477 and 1480. Since that time, the chapel has served as a place of both religious and functionary papal activity. Today it is the site of the Papal conclave, the process by which a new pope is selected. The fame of the Sistine Chapel lies mainly in the frescos that decorate the interior, and most particularly the Sistine Chapel ceiling and *The Last Judgment* by Michelangelo.

During the reign of Sixtus IV, a team of Renaissance painters that included Sandro Botticelli, Pietro Perugino, Pinturicchio, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Cosimo Roselli, created a series of frescos depicting the *Life of Moses* and the *Life of Christ*, offset by papal portraits above and trompe l'oeil drapery below. These paintings were completed in 1482, and on 15 August 1483 Sixtus IV celebrated the first mass in the Sistine Chapel for the Feast of the Assumption, at which ceremony the chapel was consecrated and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Between 1508 and 1512, under the patronage of Pope Julius II, Michelangelo painted the *Sistine Chapel ceiling*, a masterpiece without precedent, that was to change the course of Western art.<sup>[5][6]</sup> In a different climate after the Sack of Rome, he returned and between 1535 and 1541, painted *The Last Judgment* for Popes Clement VII and Paul III.<sup>[7]</sup> The fame of Michelangelo's paintings has drawn multitudes of visitors to the chapel, ever since they were revealed five hundred years ago. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistine\\_Chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistine_Chapel).

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## Couple celebrate sixty years of wedded bliss



Joe and Vicki Stivala will celebrate 60 years of marriage with family. The couple, who emigrated from Malta in 1959, have five children, 16 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

THE courtship of Joseph 'Joe' and Victoria 'Vicki' Stivala began after a family wedding. Today they celebrate 60 years since their own wedding day. The couple was married on February 1, 1953, in the Lady of Victoria Church, Naxxar, Malta. Their daughter, Therese Russell, said her parents met through family.

Joe's sister, Carmel, married Vicki's brother, Joseph. "Their courtship was for three years before they married," Mrs Russell said.

Vicki's cousin, Victoria Camilleri, was bridesmaid and a reception was held at the home of Vicki's parents, Albert and Grace Grech. Mr and Mrs Stivala have five children, Sam, Therese, Charlie, Grace and Rita, along with 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs Russell said her parents migrated to Australia in 1959. Their first three children were born in Malta and the youngest two were born in Mackay. On their arrival in Mackay the family lived at Alligator Creek, then at Habana.

Mrs Russell said her father worked as a cane cutter there before they moved on to Eton and Victoria Plains where they owned a cane farm.

In 1994 Mr and Mrs Stivala retired to Walkerston, passing on the family farm to their son Sam.

"Dad and Mum love to spend time with their extended family and many friends and have travelled on many overseas holidays," Mrs Russell said.

"Dad always enjoyed a huge vegetable garden, his Maltese history, attending Mass and lawn bowls. "Mum loved her flower garden, pot plants, sewing, needlework, cooking, spotless housekeeping and attending the Maltese prayer mornings."

Mrs Russell said her parents had had 60 wonderful years of marriage. "They are grateful for a wonderful caring family, friends and neighbours," she said. "Their love for each other is still as strong today as it was 60 years ago."



## Swiss photographer trying to map all Malta's cart ruts



Monika Trinkler walks past a cart rut in Ċirkewwa which disappears at the cliff's edge. Photos: Chris Sant Fournier

Walking past cart ruts all over the island feels like going back in time for 66-year-old Swiss photographer Monika Trinkler, who travels to Malta several times a year to document her adventures.

Ms Trinkler first came to the island in 1983 and has returned at least twice a year since. After visiting popular tourist sites, she wanted to discover something off the beaten track.

In the past year since starting her project, Ms Trinkler claims to have seen over 200 different cart ruts, recording each and every one of them.

Ms Trinkler uses Google Earth to keep track of the cart ruts she has discovered so far.

The complex network of tracks and grooves seen in different areas where there are exposed rocks has always puzzled archaeologists. Questions on whether the ruts can ever be dated and what type of vehicles could have led to the formation of the grooves have never been definitively answered.

Cart ruts are found in a number of areas in Malta and Gozo, including St George's Bay in Bireżebbugia, Ras il-Pellegrin just off Ġnejna and in the Nadur area. A history buff, Ms Trinkler wanted to get hold of a comprehensive guide to all of the cart ruts found in Malta but was soon told that this was not readily available. Not one to back off from a challenge, she decided to start using her time here to map the cart ruts herself. "I wanted to do something special with my time here and so last year I decided to start looking for Malta's cart ruts. I got in touch with Heritage Malta and then I used Google Earth to locate the coordinates," she said, holding a file brimming with maps and other documents she uses for her research.

After planning out the different routes, Ms Trinkler would then come over and spend a week or two going on three-hour long hikes every day in search of cart ruts. Once she locates the ones on her list, she takes a photo of the area and moves on to the next spot.

Why the fascination with cart ruts? Ms Trinkler said very few people appreciate the fact that they represent the efforts of those who built Malta's temples. "You cannot find this many cart ruts in other countries. When I'm standing there I think of the incredible work the people did back then, without any machines. It's an incredible feeling."

While Ms Trinkler thinks of Malta as her second home, with friends all over the island, she admitted to being slightly disappointed that the Maltese seem uninterested in learning about their own heritage. She added that recently, she had also noticed an increase in illegal dumping of waste all over the island, sometimes in areas which were hard to reach.

"I walk for hours, going through terrain that's not easily accessible and yet I see mountains of construction debris everywhere. "You have such a beautiful place and yet some are dumping their waste anywhere they want." She added that she had met very few Maltese who were well aware of what cart ruts are, insisting students should be taught about this at school.



## Pauline Curmi

Pauline Curmi, nee Zammit is an educator, writer, literary translator and poet. She was born and raised in Victoria, Gozo where she qualified as a Secondary School teacher and taught English and French at *St Mary Grammar School, Gozo*. In an adventurous move, she and her family left the island in 1967 when her father accepted the post of Migration Attaché in the Diplomatic Corps in the Malta Embassy in Canberra. Pauline and her husband chose to settle and raise their three children in Melbourne.

Following her first teaching degree in Malta, Pauline upgraded her qualifications by studying in a number of universities in Australia obtaining a Dip.Ed., B.Ed., M.A. in Applied Linguistics, a Diploma in Professional Creative Writing and a Master of Letters. Her current interests in academia range from Jungian psychology to mythology, mysticism and the hidden wisdom, traces of which are evident in her writing.

She has held various teaching, tutoring and lecturing positions in Secondary Schools and Colleges of Advanced Education in Melbourne. In interim, she served as a member of various educational professional bodies.

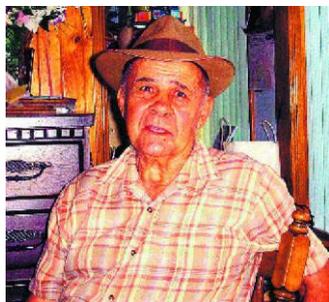
Pauline has written children's fiction, created *The Children's Page* for *The Herald Sun*, NSW and *The Mail* in Melbourne. She has translated short story books and other resource material for the Education Department in Victoria, Australia. She has broadcasted and published children's books in the Maltese language. Her first book *Holm u Fantasiġa* (1987) was awarded a 'Premju Letterarju' and a silver medal by the Malta Government. Her publication *L-Avventuri ta' Alice* (1998) is a creative translation of *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

Her Maltese poems have appeared in journals and anthologies published by the *Maltese Literature Group* in Australia. Lecturers reviewing her English poetry manuscripts describe her as an esoteric poet. According to their comments, Pauline writes spontaneously delving into the 'instinctive and intuitive depths of the psyche'. One critic notes that 'her images burst into reality with archetypal messages.' She herself sees her poems like 'soul-dreams' arising from the unconscious.

The ancient lore of her first island home has left an indelible mark on her psyche and this is subtly revealed in her writing. It is justified for all Maltese, and not only those living in Australia, to feel proud of these achievements by persons of Maltese origin. They will undeniably leave a mark on the increasing corpus of literature which in many cases owes its origin to influences first experienced in Malta. In other instances, the Maltese connection is more tenuous, a feature one will expect to become more and more evident with subsequent generations of Maltese-Australian writers..

## Final bell for Joe il-Boxer

Patrick Manning



On the 17 June 2010 Mackay has lost a dedicated family man and community member with the passing of Joe Attard; his passion for sport improved the lives of hundreds of young people.

He was a professional fighter, long-time trainer and promoter. Joe was born at Mackay and grew up in the cane fields but he learnt his trade in top Sydney gyms when the sport was booming and it was expert knowledge he brought back to his home town.

Moving south, aged 14, he trained with the likes of Trevor King and Colin Clarke and fought professionally when he was not cutting cane here or down the mine at Mt Isa. Although a natural welterweight, his highest ranking was as number three light-heavyweight and number five middleweight. Joe never claimed to be a great fighter – although it took a high-level opponent to test him. It was as a trainer that he made his mark.

His ability to sift useful technical knowledge from hype, wide experience, empathy for youth and troubled sportspeople and generous nature bound up in a no-nonsense approach made him a mate and mentor to many.

Growing up among practical and hard working Mackay Maltese Joe had no use for "show ponies" or fancy moves – only proven methods for his fighters. He was free with his hard-won expertise and those who thanked him for imparting the finer points of body punching included Mackay's former Australian professional light-middleweight champion Paul Lovi. Hundreds benefited from Joe's guidance in Mackay and at Mt Isa.

For Joe, boxing merged with his interest in the Maltese, Australian South Sea Islanders, Aborigines and anybody who needed a hand. His prohibition on racial comments in his gym allowed no exceptions.



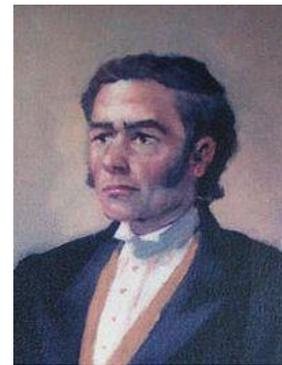
**Triq Vajringa b'dehra ahjar** Li jkollok is-setgħa fil-hajja huwa utli hafna għax kif jgħidlu l-Ingliżi 'Your word is law!' U b'daqqa ta' pinna tista' ttejjeb il-qagħda ta' persuna inkella ta' familja jew iktar ahjar ta' triq shiha. Dan hu li għamel dan l-ahjar meta l-Ministru għal Għawdex Dr Anton Refalo ta istruzzjonijiet biex waħda mit-treġat l-iktar importanti u użati fil-belt Victoria, qed nirreferi għal Triq Vajringa, fejn insibu l-iskola Primarja, il-librerija Pubblika, l-Arkivji Nazzjonali u biex inkunu għidna kollox żewġ idjar fejn twelidna kemm jien kif ukoll l-Onorevoli Ministru, tingħata qoxra tarmak li kienet ilha tistenniha. U fejn ikun hemm ir-rieda tajba u d-dixxiplina l-affarijiet isiru malajr u bla telf ta' żmien. F'hakka ta' jumejn tlieta, din it-triq tqaxxret u giet asfaltata.

Kien importanti li x-xogħol ma jkaxkarx għax biex tagħlaq din it-triq għat-tul trid toqgħod iddawwar it-traffiku u tohloq xi ftit tal-konfużjoni u l-iskomdu. U allura kien importanti li x-xogħol isir bla telf ta' żmien. Sewwa kieku l-Onor Moinistru ta' kultant joħroġ idur dawra mat-toroq ta' beltna bil-mixi biex jinnota kemm uħud minnhom mejtjn għal-lagħqa tarmak u jieħu l-inizjattiva u jdurhom waħda waħda. Jekk ikollu xi ftit hin nistiednu naghmlu passigġata flimkien; kull meta għidtu l-attenzjoni dejjem semagħni u ta każ għal li għidtu. Jieħu gost jisimgħek u jiddiskuti miegħek! Kieku r-Rabat tagħna jieħu r-ruh bla skossi u problemi. Kultant proġetti kbar jibded minn haġa żgħira! Grazi tal-appell li għadu kemm bagħtilna fi djarna biex dal-Milied Għawdex ikollu dik l-atmosfera tant sabiha li jgħibu magħhom dawn il-jiem sbieħ u qaddisa. Nappella lil huti Għawdxin biex jersqu 'l quddiem u jwasslu s-suggerimenti tagħhom halli jkollna Milied hieni u sabih mimli attivitajiet u okkażjonijiet li jolqtu lill-familja kollha. Tinsewx tibnu l-presepu fid-dar għax dur u dur, dan huwa l-qofol ta' kollox!

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex

## MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI

### Missier il-Malti - Greg Caruana



**Mikiel anton Vassalli** kien imsahhar b'kemm il-lingwa Maltija kienet qadima u sabiha u kien iqis l-ilsien Malti bhala simbolu ewlieni tal-kultura tagħna. Hu niseg grammatika u dizżjunarju Malti li għadhom magħrufa sal-lum. X'aktarx ftit jafu li, ahna u niktbu l-Malti, imqar meta niktbu xi haġa żgħira, inkunu qedin nimxu fuq it-tagħlim li kien xandar **Vassalli**'l fuq minn mitejn sena ilu. Għalhekk tajjeb li ahna l-Maltin inkunu nafu xi haġa aktar dwar dan il-bniedem kbir u missier l-ilsien Malti.

**Vassalli** twieled Haz-Zebbug fil-5 ta' Marzu 1764. fi zmien meta bosta ma kienux jirfsu l-għatba tal-iskola u kienu jibqgħu hajjithom kollha sajmin mit-tagħlim tal-qari u tal-kitba. **Vassalli** nnifsu jgħid li qabel kellu 17 il-sena ma kien jaf bl-ebda lsien barrani imma nafu li ta' 19- il sena kien idur l-irhula biex jigbor il-qwiell. Min jaf kemm -il darba kien waqaf jithaddet mal-bdiewa u mar-rghajja u jistaqsihom x'riedu jfissru bil-qawl li jkun semagħhom jghidu, jew min jaf kemm habbat bibien ta' nies tas-sengħa biex jistaqsihom xi jsejhu kull parti tal-ghodda tagħhom.

Fl-imghoddi l-qassisin Maltin li kienu jithajru jmorru għall-missjoni l-Afrika ta' Fuq, kienu jistgħu jitgħallmu l-għarbi fi skola apposta hawn Malta. **Mikiel Anton Vassalli** studja l-għarbi fl-iskola tal-Propaganda fide fill-Belt u ta' 21 sena rebah premju u bil-ghajnuna ta' patrimonju sagru, **Vassalli** mar Ruma biex ikompli jistudja għall qassis. Hemmhekk huwa għallem l-ilsien Siro-Kaldajk fl-universita' La Sapienza.

Il-Malti kien jinteressah mhux biss kif kien mibni imma wkoll bhala ghodda f'idejn in-nies biex jitgħallmu kull ma jinhtieg biha. **Vassalli** fehmem li jekk isib tarf kif il-Malti jiktbu tajjeb ikun jista jstampa kotba shah bieh u fuq suggetti differenti. għalhekk qatta' zghozitu jstinka biex jibni r-regoli tal-Malti, u meta sab tarfhom ippubblika *Alfabet Malti mfisher bil-Malti u bit-taljan* (1790), il-grammatika *MyIsen phoenico-Punicum* (1791) u dizżjunarju ta' tmintax-il elf kelma Ktieb il-kliem Malti mfisher bil-Latin u bit-Taljan. Dawn il-kotba ppublikahom minn butu. Waħda mill-akbar skoperti li kien għamel kienet tal-gherq fil-kliem Malti. **Vassalli** sab li kelma tista tliissinha differenti imma l-ittri tal-gherq ma tibdilhomx

fil-kitba .nghidu ahna ,ghalkemm inlissnu “miktup” u “kitep” irridu niktbu “miktub” u “kiteb” ghax l-gherq hu K-T-B.

Skont **Vassalli** , l-isbah Malti kien jinstema’ f’fomm ir-rahlin . Ir-rahlin ta’ zmienu kienu jinqdew b’Malti safi, mhux bhan-nies tal-Belt u tal-Kottonera li kienu jhalltu l-Malti bi kliem Taljan.

**Vassalli** maqdar lil dawk l-ommijiet li kienu jkellmu lil uliedhom bit-Taljan ,kemm ghax ma kienux jafu t-taljan sew kif ukoll ghax kienu jcahhdh lit-tfal mill-Malti. Ghal **Mikiel Anton Vassalli** , l-isbah djalett kien iz-Zebbugi , u l-kotba tieghu bniedhom fuq dan id-djalett. Waqt li **Vassalli** kien qed jippublika l-ahjar kotba tieghu, Malta kienet ghaddejja minn taqlib politiku kbir. Fi ftit snin artna ghaddiet mil-hakma tal-Kavallieri ghal taht il-Francisi u spiccat taht l-Inglizi .

**Vassalli** kellu fiducja kbira fil-francizi ghax kellu ghal qalbu l-principji tar-Rivoluzzjoni franciza li qalbu l-Ewropa ta’ taht fuq . Ta dan kollu , hallas prezz ghali hafna : f’Mejju 1797 **Vassalli** spicca arrestat wara li nkixfet konfokka kontra l-ordni tal-Kavallieri li hu kellu sehem fiha . il-kavallieri tefghuh il-habs ghal ghomru imma helsu Napuljun wara li ha Malta f’idejh . Fi zmien il-Francizi rega daq il-habs wara li r-rahlin u l-Inglizi bdew jissuspettaw fih ghax kien jissimpatizza mal-Francizi . il-Maltin kienu jqisuh traditur u l-Inglizi eziljawh.

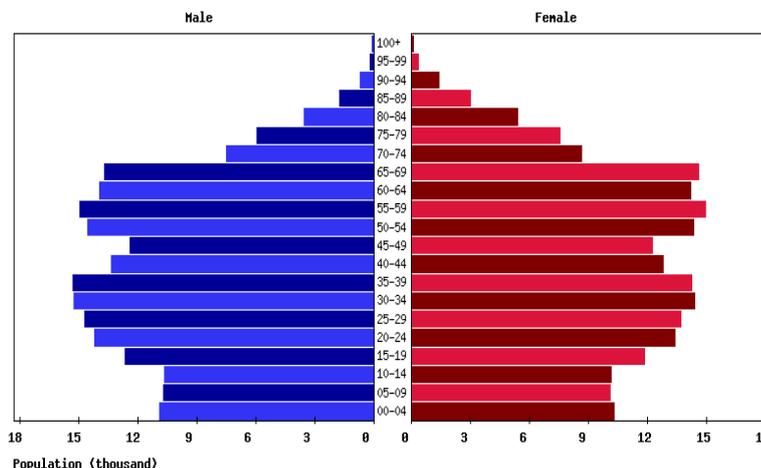


Ghadda 19 il-sena eziljat fi Franza u Spanja ,u meta rega lura Malta ta’56 sena kien ta fuqu senduqu. Imnalla ra ghajn tajba minn John Hookham Frere ,studjus inglis tal-letteratura u ex-diplomatiku . Frere kien habib kbir tal-gvernatur u kkonvincieh uhallih idahhal lil **Vassalli** bhala ghalliem tal-Malti fl-universita ta Malta .il-paga kien ihallashielu Frere minn butu . Fi-istess zmien **Vassalli** gie imqabbad mill-Protestanti biex jaqleb il-vangelu

bil-Malti. Ta’ xogholu kien jaqla hlas zghir hafna ,izda fil-qaghdha li kien fiha, kien iqis kull hlas barka mis-sema. Fl-1827 hareg it-tieni edizzjoni tal-grammatika u s-sena ta’ wara hareg gabra ta’ 863 qawl Malti .

**Mikiel Anton Vassalli** miet ta’ 65 sena . Il-Maltin kienu baqghu jistkerruh sal-ahhar, tant li wara mewtu hadd ma ried jikri daru . Imma llum dan il-patrijott sfortunat nafuh bhala Missier l-ilsien Malti u llum mhux biss kotba inkitbu imma wkoll monumenti f’gjehu. Hajr lil Joe Borg u Olvin Vella.

**Population of Malta (2016) = 414,040**  
 Births this year: 9,509                      Deaths this year 8125





## 'SIMSHAR' AVAILABLE ON DVD

'Simshar' has now won 15 prizes in countries as diverse as France, Germany, Zanzibar, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Morocco and Canada; and has been selected in over 50 festivals worldwide. It has had successful theatrical releases in Australia, Malta, Tunisia and currently in France.

We are very excited now be launching the DVD! And what better token of Malta for keeps or as a gift!

Synopsis: Young Theo is sent on his first fishing trip with his Maltese sea faring family, but things go terribly wrong when their boat, the 'Simshar', sinks leaving the crew stranded in the Mediterranean... Simultaneously, Alex - a medic reluctantly dispatched onto a merchant vessel which has rescued a group of stranded African refugees between Malta and Italy - gets stuck on the boat as the countries wage a bureaucratic war over who should take them in... The stories unravel in parallel and culminate tragically when the fishermen are traced down, but by that time there's only one survivor.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/jnOLsCGV8XQ>

### DVD details:

- To pre-order a DVD, get special perks and bundle deals please go to this site:

<http://www.zaar.com.mt/projects/simshar-official-dvd/>

- The DVD comes with many bonus features, including a making of documentary, never before seen deleted scenes, collector's postcards and more.

- The DVDs are playable in all regions and come with French and English subtitles should one like to activate them.

Should you wish to place an order of more than 9 DVDs please contact us directly on [rebecca@filmmalta.com](mailto:rebecca@filmmalta.com)

### Some Quotes from International Press:

"Malta's first Oscar entry is a beautifully shot, dark drama...with a gut wrenching twist."

THE WRAP (U.S) <http://www.thewrap.com/50-countries-enter-oscar-foreign-language-race-the-complete-list-so-far/>

"The actors' performances and Rebecca Cremona's mastery, makes one keen to follow Maltese cinema." PREMIERE (France)

"...a rare Maltese production. Inspired by true events, it tells an engrossing story of how socio-political influences contributed towards a set of unfortunate events in the Mediterranean."

AWARD CIRCUIT (U.S) <http://www.awardscircuit.com/2014/11/09/film-review-simshar-★★★/>

"Malta - a European island nation near Italy - is often used as astonishing location for big budget studio films. This year, however, " Simshar," a great immigration drama will represent the country.

INDIEWIRE (U.S) <http://blogs.indiewire.com/sydneylevine/83-submissions-for-best-foreign-language-film-at-the-87th-academy-awards-20141111>

"Based on true events, this story has an undeniable - almost fable like - force." TELERAMA (France)

"The true story is harrowing, yet Rebecca Cremona's first feature is luminous." LE MONDE (France)

- SYDNEY MORNING HERALD (Australia) - <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/simshar-review-maltas-heartbreaking-tale-of-migration-pressures-20150929-gjwrwh.html>

- THE AUSTRALIAN, David Stratton (Australia) - <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/film-reviews-legend-with-tom-hardy-simshar-learning-to-drive/story-fn9n8gph-1227562109970>

Press clips (Australia):

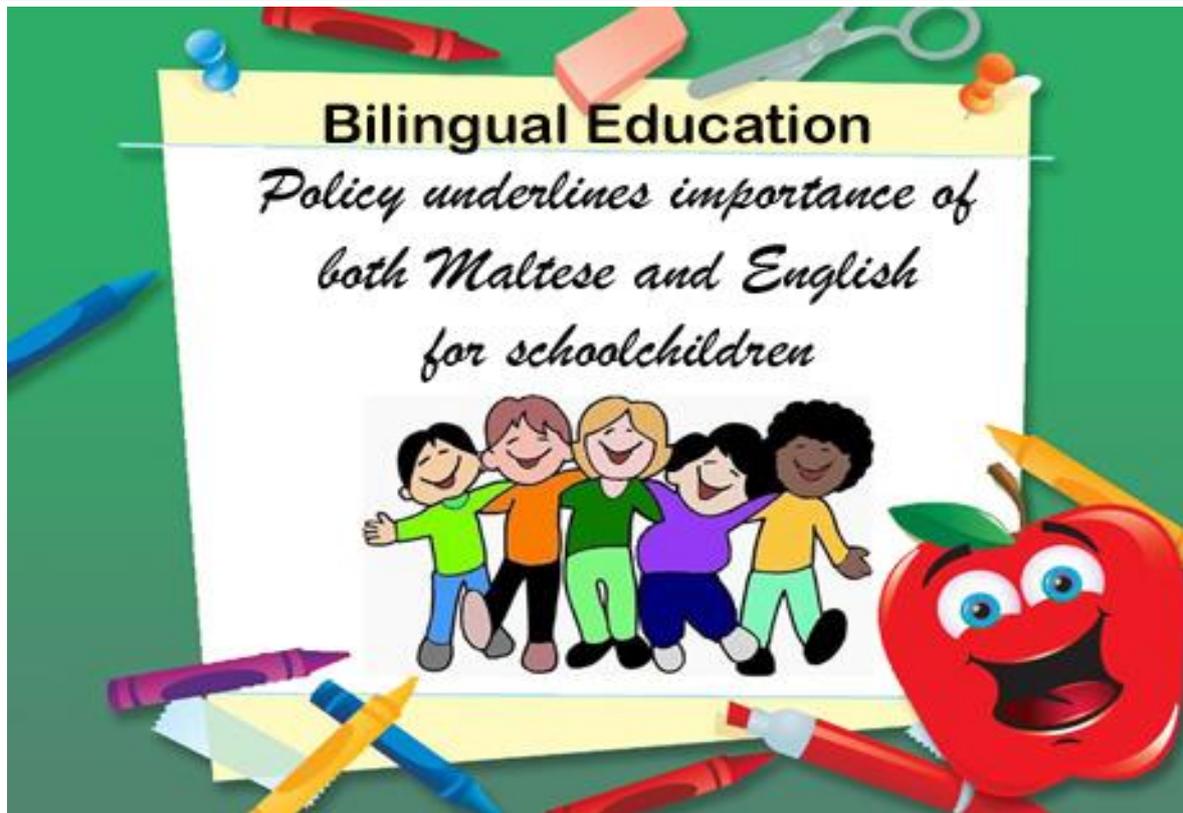
- Breakfast show, VIRGINIA TRIOLI - <https://www.facebook.com/breakfastnews/videos/10153262521978983/>

- The Conversation Hour, WALEED ALY - <http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2015/10/02/4324183.htm>

**Rebecca Cremona - Writer/Director**

**Kukumajsa Productions**

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All children under the age of seven should have equal opportunities to develop and practice Maltese and English equally, according to a language policy launched today.

Unveiled recently after a consultation process in the past months, the policy – A Language Policy for the Early Years in Malta and Gozo - stipulates that educators and parents should promote the use of both languages equally. The new policy was launched by Education Minister Evarist Bartolo to mark the European Day of Languages.

It is aimed at those in early years education, which include children in the first years of non-compulsory schooling (childcare centres, Kinder 1 and Kinder 2) and to the first two years of compulsory schooling (Year 1 and Year 2).

The language policy document was prepared by a group of practitioners and experts and following wide consultation with parents, teachers and the general public. Similar policies for the other years are to follow, the Minister said.

Providing students with an early start in language learning is essential for young children to gain appropriate levels of competence and for shaping children's overall progress, the policy shows.

This would also enable learning to take place over a longer period, ensuring more permanent results in language learning and an enhanced capacity to learn languages."

Teachers must also identify those students - including migrants who might not have been exposed to the languages before settling here - struggling in either of the two languages and offer necessary support, the policy states.

For the program to be effective, the document also points to the importance of offering educators with the adequate training. This should include equipping them with the knowledge and skills to design and deliver a program that effectively addresses the needs of the young children.



## KYM VALENTINE AUSTRALIAN/MALTESE

Maltese-Australian Kym Valentine was born in Blacktown, Sydney on the 24th of May 1977. She made an early start to her acting career with a part in a **McDonalds** advert, aged 5, for which she was paid \$20.

Her first big part came in 1992 in the short-lived comedy series **My Two Wives** where she played Lisa Kennedy. Kym's next role as a Kennedy proved to be much more successful. In 1994, aged 17, she was cast in **Neighbours** as feisty teenager Libby Kennedy. She debuted in episode 2251 as the only daughter of the new family on the block and stayed for just over ten years, leaving as a mother, and a widow, to be with her teen sweetheart Darren Stark in episode 4605. Like many other **Neighbours** actors, Valentine managed to star in several UK based pantomimes during her time on the soap. During Kym's impressive tenure she did take one break for maternity leave which occurred on Australian screens from October 2003 until May 2004 and was explained as a new job for Libby in Adelaide. A brief cameo came in 2005 for Annalise's 20th anniversary documentary.

Kym moved from television to theatre in 2004 when she won the lead role of Frances 'Baby' Houseman for the musical production **Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story On Stage**. After a successful run of over a year at Sydney Theatre Royal, the production moved to London in summer 2006 but Valentine was not chosen to continue her role. She has since said that she needed to rest physically and mentally as, during the Sydney season, she was diagnosed as having three hernias in her stomach. Following her operation, Kym took a break from acting and began to concentrate on her other love; music.

Valentine had been regularly singing live in Melbourne pubs with the band **Feedback**, but since 2006 she has been working in an acoustic duo with **Waiting Room** guitarist Tommy Rando. They perform weekly at the Elephant and Wheelbarrow, Fitzroy Street, St Kilda, usually as part of **The Official Neighbours Bingo & Karaoke Bash**.

Off screen, Valentine has been an ambassador for not-for-profit organisation **Taylor & Khoo** which provides employment and opportunity for Cambodian orphans. Following an interview with **OK! Magazine**, she asked that her \$2000 fee be donated to the orphanage.



During 2003 Kym gave evidence in the court dispute between Holly Valance (Flick Scully) and her former manager Scott Michaelson. Valentine stated that Valance had told her on the **Neighbours** set that she would be getting out of her contract with Michaelson as her record company would be looking after her. Valance denied that the conversation had occurred and when asked if she was accusing Valentine of lying to the court, she replied "Yes I am". When Kym was asked if she still regarded Holly as a friend, she replied with a smile, "I hope so".

In July 2007 Valentine officially announced that she was returning to **Neighbours** on a permanent basis, although her daughter Millana had overheard telephone discussions and told Kym's in-laws and staff at her day care. Kym seemed delighted to be returning to what she calls home and said "I am hugely loyal to the show and I'm ready to go back and do what I love". Three years and one week after she left, Kym returned to Australian screens on 12th November 2007. In July 2008, Kym collapsed with a collapsed lung and Michala Banas took over the role of

Libby for several weeks. She returned to screens as Libby in January 2009, and departed again suddenly in May 2011. Kym has said in interviews that her favourite film is **Gone With The Wind**, that she'd like to act alongside Edward Norton and that if she weren't an actress, she'd like to be a director or singer. Asked for a favourite motto, she answered: "There's no use complaining when you've got a job to do".



## MY ALL-AMERICAN MOVIE

Vera Sweeney

This is an inspiring movie. It really reminded me of my own All American hero, my Nannu. That's what the Maltese (where my mom is from) call grandpa. He was the best. A run-of-the-mill guy who came from Malta with nothing to start a better life for this family. He worked hard jobs but became a great woodworker, eventually starting his own custom furniture business in New York City. He had a very successful business, owned his houses in Astoria and Malta, and even owned a few buildings in East Harlem, where his workshop was.

He was a great father, friend, and Nannu. He built his life up from nothing in the shadows of a war, and made a good life for himself and his family. Against all

odds, he did what he dreamed he would do when he went to New York. He loved everything and he loved America. He always said it was the best country in the world. If that's not a feel-good, all American story to inspire, I'm not really sure what is. Here's a pic of him with my Nanna, mom, and aunt in NYC!



## In-Nanna l-bierah u Jien il-lum!

Tifkriet minn Lina Brockdorff

Il-kelma "nanna" jista' jkollha żewġ tifsiriet: waħda tfisser omm ommi jew omm missieri, waqt li nista' l-istess kelma nużaha għal mara mdaħħla fiż-żmien.

Qisni qed naraha issa lil nannti Marija Konċetta, meta bdiet tikber u tghodd fuq il-ħamsa u ħamsin sena. Dan fis-snin tletin, ta' qabel it-Tieni Gwerra. Aktarx li tistagħgeb taqra ħamsa u ħamsin, tissuspetta li għajnejk qed iqarrqu bik jew li hemm xi għelt fil-kitba. Xejn minn dan kollu! Ghax il-ħamsa u ħamsin sena ta' dak iż-żmien tista' bl-akbar heffa tqabbilhom mas-sebghin jew tmenin tal-lum! In-nies kienu jgħixu ħajja iqsar minna. Meta xi ħadd kien jagħlaq il-ħamsin jibda jqis ruħu max-xjuħ, man-nanniet. Il-kelma "anzjan" ma kellhiex il-konnotazzjoni li għandha llum. Qajla konna nużawha fil-Malti ta' kuljum! Daż-żmien qisna nistmerru nliissnu

biss il-kelma "xiħ" jew "xiħa", bħal dak li qallu miskin hu min jgħaddu s-snin minn fuqu, u billi nibdlulu ismu u nsejnhulu 'anzjan' inkunu qed innaqqsulu mill-annati! Mur ifhem!

Nannti ma kenitx eċċezzjoni. Meta għalqet ħamsa u ħamsin, niftakarha bir-rassenjazzjoni ta' ġob ta' żmienna twarrab kull libsa tal-kulur. Bdiet bħala l-ewwel pass tilbes dawk blu skuri, griżi, kannella jew suwed ittikkjati jew irrigati bl-abjad. Dan kien il-pass intermedjarju, qabel ma tfiet kull lewn minn fuqha u tkeffnet bl-iswed. Jaħasra nannti kienet niexfa daqs aringa u qajla kien joqgħodilha l-iswed. Saret qisha dell ta' dak li kienet qabel. Din il-bidla tatni f'għajni. Kont nistaqsiha għaliex għamlet hekk u t-tweġiba kienet dejjem: "int għadek żgħira, ma tifhimx ... għax hekk xieraq. "Domt nistaqsiha, imma dejjem qatgħetli l-għatx bil-perżuta.

L-Isla, xi nisa li qajla kellhom x'jagħmlu, kienu bl-akbar reqqa jżebbu għajnejhom u jżommu kalkolu ta' kemm għalqet żmien kull Sengleana, inkluża s-Sa Ċett, u li jekk ma tibdilx il-qoxra mlewna ta' barra, jibdeu jiskandalizzaw ruħhom biha! "Min jaf x'qed tippretendi? Tgħid x'għandha f'moħħha? ġizumarja fiex wasalna!" Mur oqgħod bihom!

Għandek tgħid, paċenzja li l-proċess naturali tax-xjuħija jisraqlek il-par wardiet roża minn ħaddejki flimkien mal-lewn naturali ta' xagħrek, ikemmixlek il-ġilda u jbaxxi d-dawl leqqieni ta' għajnejk. Biex tagħqad jonqos li twarrab il-ftit ilwien tal-ħwejjeg li b'xi mod itaffu il-monotonija tad-dehra tiegħek. U kemm



kienu bla gost dawk il-bluži suwed, bla tlellix u bla frilli u bla ċfuf, bla piegi u bla pnatar ... xejn, awsteri kemm tridhom. Dmirhom kien biss li jostru saħansitra kull l-iċken dettal fiżiku li jifforma l-mara!

L-istil tax-xagħar biddlitu wkoll. Fejn qabel xagħarha kien imġiegħed naturali u mitluq fuq spallejha, issa beda jdur issikkat ġo qagħqa marsusa, toppu fuq wara b'gozz furfiċetti twal suwed tal-ħadid. Wara dan l-istadju, ix-xagħar ma kienx idum ma jitlef lewnu, jiżżewwaq bil-griz u wara ffit isir kollu abjad. Ħadd qisu ma kien sama' biż-żebgħa tax-xagħar.

Issa jekk saret dil-bidla fid-dehra tagħha, kien hemm bidla akbar fit-taqsim tax-xogħol u ta' kif tfekren ġewwa u barra mid-dar. Niftakarni noqogħdu fl-istess f'dar, u qed nisma' l-lum l-litanija t'ommi: "Ma, tiħabatx, ftakar li inti l-lum m'għadekx li kont. Strieħ, poġġi bilqiegħda u ndukrali liċ-ċkejken." U n-nanna dritt tbaxxi rasha tobdi lil bintha aktar milli nobduha aħna t-ftal.

Tal-għaġeb, qisu ffit kien ikollha flex tqatta' l-hin tal-jum! Iżżebbeġ il-kuruna tar-rużarju jew tintilef fxi faxxiklu ta' rumanz li jiġu jdur bih dar dar kull f'mistax. Ma mid-ninsa, kienet b'nuċċali fuq il-ponta ta' mneħirha taħdem il-kalzetti tal-ħajt fuq erba' labriet; inkella traqqa' xi peduna li ttiklilha l-għarqub fuq speċi ta' bajda tal-injam jew tal-irħam; u peduni għat-tiswija l-Mulej kien dejjem jipprovdiha għax konna ċorma t'fal! Xi drabi taħdimlek ukoll xi xalla tas-suf bil-ganċ. Drabi oħra, ommi u missieri jħajruha tagħmel passejn magħhom filgħaxija, hi fin-nofs, waqt li labranzetta jżommuha għax wisq forzi ma kellhiex; il-qasab ta' riġleja bdew jitgħawġu, saru jagħtu fit-tond u ma baqgħux dritti kif kont nafhom qabel.

Ir-rutina tal-ikel inbidlet ukoll. Snien ma tantx kien fadlilha. Minħabba f'hekk spiss taraha tfittet xi galletta, biskuttell, xi ottu jew qagħqa ħelwa fil-kafè jew fil-kokotina, jew tbill fettul ħobż fi ffit inbid aħmar bi ffit zokkor. Waqt li għall-iklet ewlenija tal-jum kien hemm il-platt tas-smid toqlija, jaħasra, (kien ifakkarni fl-għasida tat-tiġieġ), brodu bit-tarja tal-kunsulat, torta tal-ħaxu, inkella biċċa rkotta, xi platt minestra jew xi ħuta friska. Ma' dawn, bajda nejja friska li kienet tixrob minn taħt it-tiġieġa u tazza ħalib kollu ragħwa, dritt kif jaħlibielha Ġiljan tal-mogħoż. Intenni, li dak iż-żmien bl-għajnejn ta' tifla kont nithassarha lill-povra nannti. Kont beżgħana li nispiċċa bħalha!

Imma "iż-żmien itul, u l-qarn idur" kienu jgħidu x-xjuħ tagħna, u għalkemm setgħu kienu nies bla ħafna skola, kienu jafu xi jgħidu għax kellhom l-aqwa għerf - dak li jitgħallmu mill-esperjenza tal-ħajja. Illum qbiżt is-sena li fiha kienet nannti f'dak iż-żmien. Ġara li l-lum inqalbet il-folja! Għax issa spicċajt nithassar lili nnifsi - eżerċizzju mhux ta' min jinkuraġġih, għax jaf iwaqqgħek f'dipressjoni. Iva, illum ngħir għall-ħajja li kienet tgħix l-għażiża nannti.

Ikollli nammetti li għandi ħafna x'jaħjini u li nannti qatt ma ħolmot bihom, ibda mid-dehra ta' persunti. Dan huwa fattur ta' importanza kbira għal kull Eva. Illum ma tantx għadek tara nisa b'xagħarhom imżewwaq bil-griz għax għandna kull tip ta' żebgħa tax-xagħar, barra mill-offerta li tista' ttawwal dan ix-xagħar, tibdillu l-istil u l-maxta, kif trid u meta trid. Hawn dentisti kapaċi jirrangawlek sett snien isbaħ milli żejnitek bihom in-natura; kremi u kulur tal-wiċċ, essenzi ta' żjut biex jirrilassaw il-muskoli li ilhom iebesin, barra minn terapiji varji li bihom tistimula l-ġilda li ma turix is-sintomi ta' xjuħija, u, allaħares qatt, jikxfu kemm-il sena tgħodd. Issib kliniċi li joffrulek dieti speċjalizzati biex tibqa' f'saħħtek u tiġġieled ix-xjuħija. Biex ma nsemmix xi interventi kirurġiċi li b'manipulazzjoni tal-għaġeb jibdlulek kull parti ta' ġismek u jġibuk għalli kont tletin sena qabel! Jekk mhux aħjar ukoll! Fwienet tal-ħwejjeġ u żraben illelxu kemm trid, u ħadd ma jindaħlek liema lewn jew stil tilbes. Affarik.

B'tant swiċis madwari kif inhu possibli li niftakar eżatt b'liema ordni kelli nagħfas dak il-mingħul ta' swiċċ li suppost imissni għafast? Biex inkompli ngħaxxaqha nibda nixgħel u nitfi dik il-miżħuta magna forsi xi darba jiftillha tibda taħdem u tħallini b'sabri. Jaħasra kollu ta' xejn!

Meta nkun f'dagħdigha bħal din saħansitra jkun hemm drabi fejn ninsa fejn ħallejt il-mowbajl. 'Iva, Sant'Antnin għalxejn inwegħdek għaxar ċenteżmi? Kemm sar għali xogħlok!' ... 'Jeħtieġli naħdem sew kemm imissni noffrulek la dawwarna għall-ewro.' Hawn! Sibtu fl-aħħar il-mowbajl. Dan ukoll ma jridx jixgħel? Nibda ninkwieta. Ixoqq l-għaraq għalija. Ikollli npoġġi bilqiegħda għax riġleja nħosshom jerħuni. Nisħet is-siegħa u l-waqt li ħallejt 'il uliedi jipperswaduni u jirregalawli dawn il-gadgets. Il-persjoni tielgħa, qalbi tħabbat goff, in-nifs jonqos, nistħajjel li 'domnu', s'hawn għamilna! Addijo magni u kumdità.

Bħal issa ninsab f'wieħed minn dawn l-attakki. Qajla għandi forza nasal sat-telefown li jinsab 'il bogħod. Il-cordless qiegħed għat-tiswija. Tibżax, tippanikjax ... ikkalma ... sib il-mowbajl, hemm fuq it-tavolin żgur ħallejtu. Ix-xjaten! Qed niftakar insejt niċċarġjalu l-batterija! Kif ser insejjaħ għall-ewwel għajnuna? ... U

le, din mhix hajja! Qed tifhem issa ghaliex ngħir għal nannti li ma kellha qatt tgħaddi minn purgatorju bħal dan? Kemm kienet aħjar il-ħajja dak iż-żmien meta nannti saret nanna!

Bħal issa nisthajlek tgħid: "Din se ddum tiffanfra? Kif dardritni!" U li int wasalt f'konklużjoni li ma jonqosni xejn, li qed ngħix hajja ta' reġina, jew fil-ġenna ta' l-Ghedon. Imma b'xorti hażina ngħidlek li mhux hekk, għax donnu x-xitan ma jaħmel lil ħadd bi kwietu.

Il-bużillis qiegħed hawn. Li kull mezz ta' kumdità li semmejt, bil-magni b'kollox, dawn jafu jobdu u jaħdmu ... imma jafu wkoll jagħmlu ta' rashom; waqt li għandhom ħabta jieqfu ħesrem b'xi ħsara ... li biex ngħid is-sewwa, din bosta drabi nikkaġunaha jien għax inniżżel xi buttuna bi żball!

Iffhimni u aghdini! Tużżani ta' buttuni jew ta' swiċis li wliedi erħilhom jagħtu l-voti: "Imissni ili li tgħallimt sew kif inčaqlaqhom wara xulxin. Dawn affarijiet serji. M'għandix niċċajta mal-elettriku. Jien mhux xi injoranta, jien rasi iebba u ma ridx nitgħallem, dak kollox! Jiġrili hekk għax nibża' minnhom, u dawk mhux ser jigdmuni, dawk m'għandhomx snien." Terġa', għandi turrin karti ta' direzzjoni b'xi tmien ilsna, (imma mhux bil-Malti) ta' kull aċċessorju u ta' kull magna flimkien ma' patafjun ta' garanziji li l-magna fsikkitha u serraħ mohħok għax ser taħdem għal bosta snin. Sadattant l-ebda ħoss jew ċaqliqa mill-magna! Għalxejn inkellimha tajjeb għax ma tafx bil-Malti! Hemm trid tarani!



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### 22/09/2016 - TEAM MALTA AT THE EISENHOWER TROPHY 2016

Andy Borg, Christian Brown, JJ Micallef and Nick Borg (team captain) have just completed their first round in the World Team Amateur Championships - Eisenhower Trophy - that is being held at the Riviera Maya on the east coast of Mexico. Conducted by the International Golf Federation, which comprises the 147 national governing bodies in 141 countries, the World Amateur Team Championships are a biennial international amateur golf competition that rotates among three geographic zones of the world: Asia/Pacific, Americas and Europe/Africa.

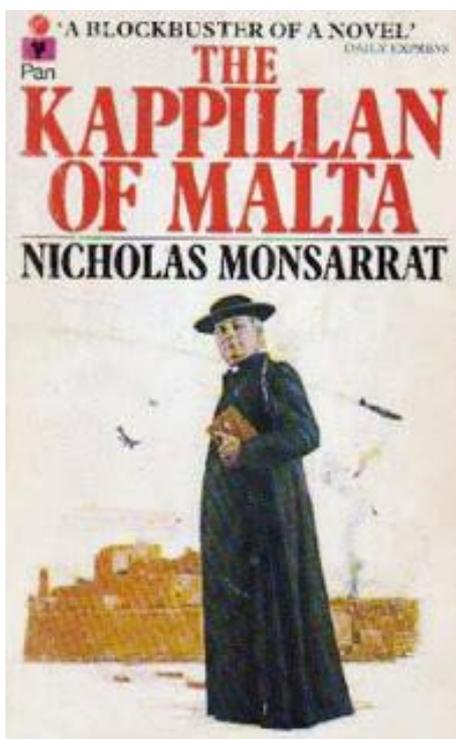
This is Malta's third showing in this prestigious event considered as the "Olympics" for amateur golf. Malta participated for the first time four years ago in Turkey when Team Malta placed 65th out of the 72 teams followed by a 50th placing out of 67 teams in the same event held two years later in Japan. This year's event sees 71 entries and after the first round Team Malta is placing 67th with an aggregate of +21 with Scotland leading the tournament on -10. The competition is a team event where each team has two or three players, who each play 18 holes of stroke play over each of the four days. In each round, the total of the two lowest scores from each team will constitute the team score for the round. The four-day (72-hole) total will be the team's score for the championship.

36 holes of the tournament will be played on the par 71 El Camaleon Course set up at 6988 yards whilst the other 36 holes will be played on the par 72 Playa Paraiso Course set up at 6771 yards.

Our team's participation in this year's event is being supported by NIKE Golf who have showered the players with an array of golf related clothing. NIKE Golf is represented in Malta by Time International Sport Ltd & is being sold exclusively from the GOSPORT mega store in Qormi.

## Crusaders and Christianity in WWII British

### Outpost of Malta – THE KAPPILLAN OF MALTA



Well-written books about World War II are always welcome on our bookshelf. It's even better when Western heritage and our defining traditions are treated sympathetically. Review of *The Kappillan of Malta*. But don't be confused by the genre, because the book is nonfiction in everything that matters.

*The Kappillan of Malta* is a wartime novel set in one of the lesser theaters of WWII, the eastern Mediterranean islands grouped with Malta, not far from Italy and Africa. Almost immediately, the islanders face daily onslaughts of Axis bombers, so the reader is tempted to ask why the inhabitants didn't save themselves by remaining neutral. Nicholas Monsarrat soon makes the answer obvious: Malta is a strategic outpost of the British Empire and is steeped in the heritage of the West, as the Michener-like flashback chapters called "Hexamerons" make clear.

The first two Hexamerons take us back to Malta in 1500 BC and 60 AD to remind readers of its cultural anchors to the Roman Empire and to the beginnings of Christianity. St. Paul lived there for a while. Later chapters chronicle the island as a fortress for the Crusaders as they valiantly fought to shield Europe and Christendom from aggressive Islamic expansionism. What remains of the Crusader legacy on Malta is seen in the crumbling world of the aristocracy and the often top-heavy presence of the Catholic Church, the two coming together in the central character of Father Salvatore.

When large portions of the island and his own church are destroyed by bombs, Salvatore leads refugees into the shelter of the catacombs where he continues to minister, despite the machinations of self-serving superiors in the Church hierarchy who are envious of his direct pastoralism. Not a pacifist, Salvatore knew well Oliver Cromwell's dictum to "Put your trust in God, but keep your powder dry!"

Perhaps the Cambridge-educated Monsarrat's greatest gift to future generations of readers will be his close attention to nuance and detail, as description and dialogue unfold with all the tightly knit clarity of any novel of manners. Reading Monsarrat will prove a good antidote to future minds dumbed down by special effects and numbed by forms of media entertainment that undermine protracted attention to the subtleties of life.

*The Maltese Newsletter*

A Big 'Thank You' to all our readers,  
contributors and supporters





## JUM I-INDIPENDENZA

### *Independence Day*

Lest we forget

12 September 1964

Malta gained its independence on September 12, 1964. No amount of political talk, rewriting of history or stamping of feet is going to change this. No attempt at elevating any other event in our history will change the fact that independent

Malta was born in 1964. Celebrating a birthday does not stop us from commemorating other important milestones in our lives. All that followed was possible because on that day Malta took the reins of power in its hands.

Subsequently it was up to the Maltese people to mess up, to develop and to take decisions along the nation's journey. For the young or anyone who doesn't know

much about our history the stamping of feet was rather more violent than that.

For a good many years the Labour Party, when in power in the 70s and 80s, not only denied the fact that Malta became independent in 1964 but it also disrupted commemorations organised by the PN.

The disruptions were thug-driven by Labour diehards who were sadly untouchables in the eyes of the authorities and the police. The word "untouchables" is coming back to haunt us. If the independence of all, or some, of our top institutions is threatened the nation's fabric starts losing its resilience. Let's preserve our independence by learning from our past and not ruining our future.

#### **Malta Independence Day History**

Malta Independence Day celebrates Malta's independence from Britain and the start of the island nation's parliamentary democracy. Prior to 21 September 1964, Malta had been under British rule since the early 1800s. However, after independence in 1964, the British Monarch remained the head of state under the new parliamentary system until Malta became a Republic ten years later. Malta then joined the Commonwealth of Nations and has since maintained ties with Britain.

Malta Independence Day is held on September 21st. It is one of a number of Malta's national holidays celebrating its independence which also include Freedom Day and Republic Day.

#### **Malta Independence Day Facts**

- In 1530, Pope Clement III granted Malta to the Order of St. John who remained on the island until Napoleon Bonaparte invaded in 1798 and expelled the Order.
- The British arrived in 1800 and helped the Maltese people oust the French. The British would then remain on the island until 1974.
- Malta uses the Euro currency ever since it joined the European Union in 2004. Before that the nation used the Maltese Lira.

Over 90% of the Maltese population is Roman Catholic and the nation is home to some 365 churches. That's 1 church per 1100 people!

# Nostalgia





GOZONEWS.COM

## Malta must resume its global climate change leadership – Nature Trust

Nature Trust Malta has urged the government to launch ratification procedures for the UN Paris Agreement on climate change before its EU Presidency starting on 1st January.

"We urge the government to resume Malta's historic climate change leadership, much admired worldwide in past years," NTM's President

Vincent Attard said.

"NTM had hoped ratification would be mentioned by the PM's speech to the UN General Assembly last Thursday – delivered one day after the UN Secretary-General's High Level Event at UN headquarters for the Paris Agreement (adopted at the UN climate change negotiations last December). Thirty nations deposited their ratification instruments – following 29, including USA and China, which had already done so since the Agreement was signed by 176 states (including by the Prime Minister) at the UN on 22 April."

"Climate change is already as beginning to drive migration, a key topic of the PM's speech, and much bigger flows will occur in future unless very ambitious measures are taken to halt global warming and cope with impacts which are already inevitable."

He added, "the Agreement's entry into force conditions call for 55 countries accounting to 55 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The country goal is attained and only under 7% are missing from the emissions target. There are currently no signs of Malta ratifying the Agreement, just three months before its EU presidency and while it remains Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth until November next year. CHOGM in Malta last November issued a Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action and over half of Commonwealth nations have already ratified."

Reacting to the Malta's current ratification situation, Wendel Trio, Director of Climate Action Network Europe, (regional node of the 1100-NGO global network Climate Action Network with members in 100 countries) stated that "Malta's upcoming EU presidency will be crucial to bring progress in a number of climate and energy legislative files giving life to the EU's commitments made under the Paris Agreement."

"Under the Maltese presidency, we need to see substantial progress in the adoption of the reform of EU climate, energy efficiency and renewable energy policies. More importantly, we expect Malta to launch the process leading up to 2018 UN climate change negotiations' review of the Paris Agreement and nations' related emission reduction commitments as from 2020. It would not be desirable for the EU to be running behind other major emitters as is the case with the ratification process."

The informal EU summit in Bratislava earlier this month agreed that ratification by EU before member states had all completed their procedures could be feasible – only France, Hungary, Germany and Austria have so far ratified. NTM emphasised that "Malta needs to show immediately that it has an ambitious and inspiring roadmap for climate change issues, as a nation, in its EU and Commonwealth roles, and not forgetting its commitment to regional Mediterranean actions through the Barcelona Convention and the Union for the Mediterranean."

The NGO said, "during the forthcoming UN climate change conference in Marrakesh, Morocco (7-18 November) Malta should be able to not only show it has ratified the Paris Agreement, but establish its credentials with the other 195 nations attending, as well as with the business, labour and other civil society formations present, that it can act again as a credible and forceful climate change leader."

It added, "climate change must figure on the agenda of the extraordinary EU summit hosted by Malta on February 3, as well as the follow up conference to the Valletta Migration Summit expected during its Presidency and the EU Arab League summit also expected to take place."

"On the home front, the government must do much more to inform citizens about the huge expected climate change impacts on Malta while its finance sector should be involved in ongoing global discussions about green bonds and

other innovative financial instruments to channel private capital into the huge investments needed to put economies on a low-carbon pathway and support climate adaptation policies," stated Nature Trust Malta.

The NGO said that "through its National Ekoskola programme, Nature Trust is teaching children about climate change – the central issues of the childrens' parliament held at the House of Representatives in July. As members of Climate Action Network since 2002 we stand ready to share our perspectives for a meaningful dialogue with the Government on its climate change leadership role." "

Malta's climate change leadership role started in 1988, when it tabled a resolution at the United Nations calling for the world's climate system to be considered as the heritage of humanity. The world's nations agreed to launch negotiations for a treaty, managed between 1989 and 1992 by a senior Maltese UN official, Michael Zammit Cutajar.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992, came into force in 1994. Mr. Zammit Cutajar was its first Executive Secretary (1994-2002) and then Malta's ambassador for climate change (to 2011) playing a key role in major negotiating exercises

## Maltese Aged Care Association of South Australia Inc



The Maltese Aged Care Association (SA) Inc. (**MACASA**) was founded in 1994 with the intent of establishing ethno-specific aged care services for our Maltese elderly in South Australia. The development of **MACASA** over the years has been rewarding, and at times very challenging. Here is a brief look at our achievements.



**HISTORY OF MACASA** - In 1994, a group of Maltese volunteers recognised the need for some form of residential care for our Maltese elderly. A committee met on a regular basis and incorporated our Association under our present name.



In 1995, we undertook a survey of 100 Maltese families in South Australia who were interviewed in their own homes. An extensive list of questions was put to these people regarding their health. This survey presented an opportunity for **MACASA** members to speak directly to our older people and discuss their needs with them. It also was an opportunity to inform them about the activities of **MACASA**, and to supply them with information about aged care services that were currently available to them plus possible future options.



The results from the survey identified the need for help at home, and help with Maltese meals, transport and Residential Care. **MACASA** members volunteered their time for this since no financial assistance was received specifically to conduct this survey.



**Home-delivered or Frozen Pick-up Meals** - In 1998, funding was made available to provide a culturally-appropriate meals service. Thanks to the survey previously conducted, we knew where the majority of the elderly Maltese were located, and we were able to plan our kitchen in a central area. In collaboration with the Maltese Guild of SA, we opened our first kitchen in Beverley at the Maltese Cultural Centre in the Western area. As this was a new venture for us, it was no easy task. It was thanks to the resilience and persistence of Charles Bezzina, our Maltese cook at the time, and **MACASA** that we managed to deliver this service. We are proud that **MACASA** in South Australia is the only Maltese Association providing a Maltese Meals Service in Australia.

Over time, the demand for Maltese meals grew. In 2003, due to further expansion of the Meals Service, it was necessary to look for a bigger kitchen. After moving to the RSL facility in West Croydon, we eventually relocated our Office and Kitchen to:

**Cheltenham Community Centre 62 Stroud Street North Cheltenham SA 5014**

Our current Services Manager, works with a dedicated group of volunteers who deliver the meals and other services to our clients. The fact that our community owns this service is invaluable; a "little Malta" is created in the busy buzz of our kitchen, as the cooks and volunteers happily participate in the preparation and delivery of approximately 50 meals per day. The value of Maltese volunteers delivering the meals lies in the fact that our clients look forward to chatting with them on a regular basis.

Hot meals are delivered fresh daily from Monday to Friday in certain areas. For many people who would like meals but live outside our delivery areas, we have developed a Frozen Meals Program. This program is also available Monday to Friday, and any number of meals can be picked up from our facility either on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

In 2003, an opportunity arose with the then Uniting Care Wesley at Regency Green. Funding was being offered to provide a residential house for ethnic communities. We met, and discussions started, the result of which is our present Maltese wing called "Melita House". We have Maltese residents at present. **MACASA** volunteers visit the residents on a weekly basis, and monitor the service to ensure it is ethnically-appropriate.

These **MACASA** volunteers visit and give Holy Communion to our residents regularly. Father Gabriel also performs Mass for all the residents of Regency Green regularly. The residents find comfort in the fact that they are within their own culture with regard to company and appropriate food. Our Kitchen regularly delivers Maltese meals to those residents.

The role of **MACASA** is to:

*Initiate and develop services for our Maltese elderly & wider community,*

*Refer clients to relevant services,*

*Ensure that information is appropriately given out through the Maltese media and wider community, community clubs, etc.,*

*Assist in the ongoing monitoring and assessment of services, and*

*Most of all we ensure that these services are culturally- and linguistically-appropriate.*

As you can see at **MACASA** is constantly planning and monitoring all services to continue improving and expanding, particularly seeking where we can develop new services that meet the needs of our community.

The evolution of **MACASA** since 1994 has been beyond our expectations; we are proud of our achievements. The foundations have been well-laid, and we can only look to the future now.



## THE ORDER OF MALTA IN AUSTRALIA

The Order of Malta was founded in Jerusalem in 1098 just before the First Crusade. Since 1113, it has been a lay religious Order of the Catholic Church. It is also an international hospitaller and relief organisation, and a sovereign entity under international law. Its full title is the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. It came to Australia in the early 1970's where its focus became the care of the terminally ill, the frail elderly and their families. It is based at Caritas Christi, Kew where it has an office and a Board Room.

In 1992 Caritas Christi and the Order of Malta Hospice Home Care Services Incorporated was formed as a partnership of the Sisters of Charity and the Order of Malta. This home-based service was staffed by nurses, pastoral care and social workers and a core of trained volunteers. In 1997 the two partners became two of three founding partners in Eastern Palliative Care Association Inc. The Order of Malta in Australia has some 250 members and some 70 members in Victoria where it enjoys considerable volunteer support and is able to carry out a variety of programs. The Order is directly involved in the work of EPC as well as assisting others within its founding ethos: 'Our Lord's the Sick'.



The paradox of the Maltese archipelago--five islands lying in the Mediterranean 60 miles south of Sicily--is how so much cultural heritage came to be packed into such a small area. This nation's vast heritage has been recognized for centuries. En route to Egypt at the behest of King Louis XVI of France, Charles Sonnini stopped at the islands in 1777 and made the following observation, "Before the island of Malta became the domain of the Brotherhood of St. John of Jerusalem, it had passed successively into the hands of several potentates. From the Carthaginians down to the Arabs it underwent a frequent change of masters; the vestiges of antiquity in it are accordingly not few." Sonnini wrote also that he saw in a library "a petrified bone of great size," which he took to be from a quadruped. When Napoleon's fleet ousted the Knights of St. John in 1798, Vivant Denon, one of the scholars accompanying the French expedition to Egypt, visited the library and noted "an etruscan vase found at Gozo, of the greatest beauty, both with respect to the earth and the painting. I likewise inspected a very large glass vase, a lamp also found at Gozo, and a kind of votive disk in stone, with a bas relief, representing, on one of the sides, a sphinx, with a paw placed on the head of a ram.

The style of this latter object sufficiently denotes its antiquity." While such artifacts were of interest, the megalithic temples on the two largest islands, Malta and neighboring Gozo, were of wonder. Early speculation about these Late Neolithic (3500 to 2500 B.C.) temples ran wild. In 1647, the antiquarian Gian Francesco Abela, vice-chancellor of the Knights, wrote that they were built by a race of giants descended from Noah. Jean Houel, an artist in Louis XVI's court, declared in 1787 that they were Phoenician, while Charles de Brochtorff, who painted the Ggantija temple and excavated at Xaghra in the 1820s called them "druidical." Despite an 1854 attempt by to claim them, and the Maltese islands, as remnants of Atlantis, by the end of the nineteenth century the temples were recognized as prehistoric structures.

If the Malta's monuments needed any international acknowledgment to mark their significance, that came in the closing decades of the last century. In 1980, UNESCO entered on its World Heritage list two Neolithic sites--the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a subterranean burial complex, and Ggantija, one of the megalithic temples. In 1992, this entry was renamed "The Megalithic Temples of Malta" and expanded to include the temples of Hagar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien, Ta'Hagrat (also known as Mgarr), and Skorba. Also placed on the World Heritage list in 1980 was Valletta, the nation's capital. Valletta, named for the head of the Knights of Malta who led defense against the Turkish siege in 1565, is an architectural gem of baroque buildings and unparalleled bastions and ramparts. Sonnini called the Grand Harbor of Valletta "one of the largest and most beautiful in the universe" and claimed that the "fortifications which defend the port and city are the best in the world."

## **New website marks Malta George Cross anniversary**

We thought you'd like to know about a new website, [www.maltagc70.com](http://www.maltagc70.com), which follows the day to day events of Malta at war 'on this day' 74 years ago. In the form of a diary, the website follows the ordeal of the Islanders through the winter and spring of 1942, as Malta became the most bombed place on earth. Taken from original wartime documents, as well as memoirs and histories, MaltaGC70.com also gives readers background information starting from the onset of war in 1940, and underlining the importance of Malta to the Allied war campaign.

We hope you'll visit the site - and leave your comments. You can also sign up for daily updates if you'd like Malta George Cross

**TONY VALLETTA**

# MALTA PHILHARMONICA ORCHESTRA

## Events - October 2016

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra's 2016-2017 Season got off to a flying start and following on from our official Season Opening Concert on 30th September, we have a host of wonderful performances to present to you in October. To see our full Concert Season Booklet and for further information about all our upcoming events, please visit [maltaorchestra.com](http://maltaorchestra.com).



### FESTIVAL OF MODERN COMPOSERS

This first edition of the Festival of Modern Composer consists of competitions and concerts and is dedicated to Mro Joseph Vella, one of Malta's most famous composers. Featuring musicians from the MPO, there will be four evening concerts of chamber music also featuring compositions by Mro Joseph Vella.

Further information can be found on [www.modcomfest.com](http://www.modcomfest.com)

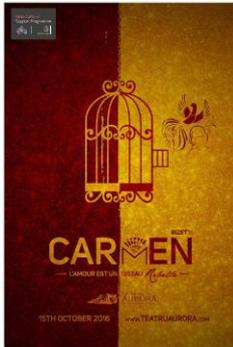
**Thursday 6th October:** Opening Concert

**Friday 7th October:** Instrumental Recital

**Saturday 8th October:** Gala Concert for Competition Winners

**Sunday 9th October:** Closing Concert

Robert Samut Hall 7.30 PM (on all days) FREE ENTRANCE

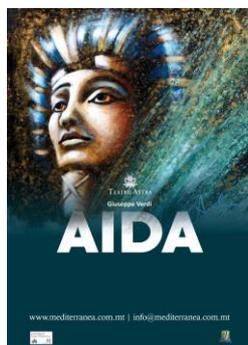


### Bizet - CARMEN

Conducted by Colin Attard, the Aurora Theatre's production of Carmen will feature Bulgarian mezzo-soprano Nadia Krasteva and Italian tenor Roberto de Biasio, who have graced the most important operatic stages ranging from the Metropolitan to La Scala and the Wiener Staatsoper. Colin Attard - Conductor Novella Tabili - Director

**Saturday 15th October 7.30pm Aurora Theatre, Gozo** BOOK

<http://teatruaurora.com/opera-carmen-2016/>



### Verdi - AIDA

Aida possesses all the great ingredients which make up Italian Opera, including grandeur and intimacy; poignancy and implacability; vengeance and redemption; love and envy. This is the third time Teatru Astra is producing Aida and this performance will also mark the beginning of the 15th edition of Festival Mediterranea.

**Thursday 27th October and Saturday 29th October 7.30pm** Astra Theatre, Gozo BOOK:

