



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Modern Malta: Old and New Collide on This Island Nation

By Lisa Abend – National Geographic Magazine

Angling for its turn on the world stage, this tiny island nation is embracing a reboot while holding fast to a formidable heritage.

Malta, originally a farming and fishing community, has not strayed far from these original influences. Valletta, Malta's capital city, can be seen here over the shoulder of a fisherman. We're in Malta's ancient fortified town of Mdina, on Pjazza Mesquita, 30 or so English-speaking tourists wearing an inordinate number of *Game of Thrones* T-shirts for our show-themed tour. Before us hang the balconies where scheming Lord Baelish displayed his prostitutes and Ned Stark, Lord Paramount of the North, is horrified to find his wife. Everything around us—walls, paving stones—is golden-hued limestone, interrupted only by green shutters and black iron curving over windows.

Malcolm Ellul, a 41-year-old Maltese businessman and actor, points to a very un-Westeros mailbox.

"That's practically the only thing they had to change," he says, "they" referring to the film crew for the hit TV series. "Otherwise, you see? Malta doesn't need anything done to it."

This isn't the sentiment I had hoped to hear. On my first trip to Malta, several years ago, I'd been struck by how out-of-date the place seemed, not just old but old-fashioned. Its history as home to the Order of the Knights of Malta and subsequent British protectorate, so well-preserved, is fascinating. But there was something about this Mediterranean island nation perched between Sicily and North Africa that seemed stuck, its food and arts scenes undeveloped, its fashions several years behind, its tourism aimed largely at northern Europeans hell-bent on sunburns and hangovers. Even Malta's politics seemed retrograde: Divorce was illegal until 2011.

But in the intervening years I had heard rumors of change. The European Commission chose Malta's capital, Valletta, as one of two Capitals of Culture for 2018. Malta's government finally legalized divorce. New boutique hotels were opening, major cultural initiatives were being launched, and yes, *Game of Thrones* began filming here. Together, these changes had me wondering: After all this time being known primarily for sunshine and the Knights of Malta, was this island nation finally entering the modern world.

Pairing wood and stone, curves and planes, Malta's new Parliament and city gate complex, seen here at night (left) and during the day (right), designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, announces a contemporary sensibility while honoring this island nation's heritage.

I arrive in Valletta as the sun is setting and head straight out to retrace a walk I made on my last visit inside the city's fortified walls. Narrow streets are lined with baroque buildings, all ornate porticoes and wrought-iron balconies. Various doorways bear a plaque commemorating some long-ago event or person. Vintage hand-painted signs mark shops—Paul's Store, Smiling Prince Bar—long departed. When I reach the Grand Harbour, the cobalt expanse of the Mediterranean Sea gives way to an astonishing panorama of tightly packed houses, church domes, and fortresses. It looks either medieval or Meereen (a *Game of Thrones* city)—I'm not sure which.

Even for the Old Continent, Malta is unusually dense with history. A republic centered on three inhabited islands at a key crossroads location in the Mediterranean, it has been a strategic prize about as long as there has been strategy. Archaeological remains place its original inhabitants in the Neolithic era; a progression of Phoenicians, Romans, and Arabs subsequently populated it. The island really came into its own in the 16th century, when Holy Roman Emperor Charles V granted it to the Order of the Knights of Saint John with the hope that the knights would help protect Rome. Several sieges and 150 years of British colonialism later you have a place that bears hallmarks—an Arabic-inflected language, a fondness for fish-and-chips—of the many cultures that have passed through it.

I learn this at the Malta Experience, an “audiovisual spectacular” that recounts the invasions (Roman, Arab, Napoleonic) and repulsions (Ottoman, Fascist, Nazi) that make up the better part of the country’s history; and at Malta 5D, a shorter film that compensates what it lacks in historical detail with lurching seats and wafts of Maltese bread scents piped into the auditorium as a bakery appears onscreen (motion and smell being, apparently, the fourth and fifth dimensions).

EU and Australia one step closer to launching trade negotiations

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European Union Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Australia’s Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism, Steven Ciobo, (pictured here in a previous meeting) in a phone call concluded discussions on the scope of a potential bilateral free trade agreement. The preliminary discussions, conducted over the past year between the EU and Australia, aimed to define areas to be covered as well as the level of ambition for a future agreement. The European Commission is currently conducting its assessment of the potential impact that such a trade deal could have for the EU. The study takes into account

the agreed scope, new opportunities the agreement could create for EU businesses, as well as sensitivities in the farming sector. As a next step, the Commission will ask Member States for the authorisation to launch formal negotiations and for the specific negotiating directives.



Il-Leggenda ta' San Gorg u d-Drakon (The legend of St George and the Dragon) 2015

The legend of St George slaying the dragon has been recounted to generation after generation. Yet, to date, there was no local retelling of the story in Maltese. To fill this lacuna, Merlin Publishers have published a translation of the legend of St George and the dragon. The legend goes that drops of blood from the slain dragon transformed into roses and that people began to give a rose and a book on 23 April. From Catalonia, this tradition spread across the world - although in most places the association with roses has fallen by the wayside and the focus is nowadays on books - giving rise to

World Book Day. This translation, by Pierre J. Mejlak, retells the story of St George in a language accessible to younger children. Fully illustrated throughout, the book will have children aged six upwards enjoying the breathless adventure of the princess saved by the knight.

The publication of the book was made possible with the assistance of the Catalan Institute Ramon Llull. Merlin Publishers launched the book on World Book Day 2015, with a reading session by the President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca.

How's this for stirring memories Spitfire and Hurricane over Grand Harbour

Thanks to Bob Croton for bringing this to our attention.



Closest translation of the Maltese motto on the station badge I can come up with is 'Never captured by it's enemies'. My friend, Grace Aquilina, gave a literal translation of 'the airport has never been won by the enemies'.

I was stationed at RAF Luqa September 1972 to February 1974, short toured due to promotion to Corporal and shipped back to the UK.

RAF Luqa has a long and meritorious history, particularly during World War II. From 1941 to 1943 the RAF base was very important for British forces fighting Italian and German navies in the Mediterranean. Support of troops fighting in North African also played a big part in the bases' history and proved it's strategic worth time and again. The air battles over Malta are well documented as is the staunch support of the Maltese people which earned them the George Cross. Other airfields were built on Malta apart from Luqa. TaQali and HalFar, Safi, Qrendi and even on the island of Gozo.

Since the war Luqa has taken part in the Suez crisis of 1956 as well as serving as the civilian airport for Malta, sometimes being referred to a Valletta Airport.

When I was posted to Malta in 1972 we were just returning after being requested to leave by the, then, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff. On our return there was much refurbishment to be

undertaken and the communications relay station at Siggiewi had to be re-equipped. This meant the terminal communication centre at Luqa airport had to act as relay centre until control could be handed back to Siggiewi. It was a happy day for the terminal commcen staff when that happened! While there we had a squadron of Photo Recon Canberra's and Maritime Nimrods stationed permanently at Luqa but often had visiting aircraft, not least of all the compliment of HMS Ark Royal (Phantoms etc.) as they were unable to take off from the ship while in harbour.

We left again in 1979 after a dispute between the British and Maltese governments about continuing the lease. There was also a disastrous crash over the village of Zabbar involving a Vulcan bomber which affected feeling towards the RAF presence.

Depite political conflicts, causing us to leave, the relationship between Malta and the United Kingdom is excellent, as is the relationship between the respective populations. It's a wonderful place to visit for the history and friendly welcome that is always extended to visitors.

**AS A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY YOU ARE
INVITED TO SHARE YOUR STORIES FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS**



IL-QTAR LI NĦOBB — Ktieb ta' Poeżiji ta' Jesmond Sharples



“Il-Qtar li Nħobb” huwa ktieb ta’ poeżiji ta’ Jesmond Sharples, u li ġie pubblikat minn Horizons Communications f’Novembru 2016. Jesmond Sharples twieled ir-Rabat fl-1964. Hu infermier u li għamel żmien jekkupa diversi karigi fin-nursing f’Malta fosthom dik ta’ Director Nursing Services bejn 2002 u l-2016. Bħalissa Jesmond Sharples huwa wkoll l-President tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin u fost id-diversi interessi li għandu wiehed isib il-mużika b’mod partikulari l-kompożizzjoni.

Il-ktieb li fih 208 paġna, jagħtina numru ta’ poeżiji li nkitbu bejn l-1975 u l-2016 u dil-kitba tirrifletti l-mixja poetika tiegħu f’dawn l-aħħar 40 sena. Il-ktieb b’qoxra sabiħa b’warda ħamra bil-qtar tan-nida tisser il-qtar, li fi kliem il-poeta hu jħobb, il-poeżiji li permezz tagħhom jitwasslu l-ħsibijiet u l-ħsus tiegħu. It-tfassila tal-ktieb tadotta l-metafora tal-qtar mal-jum u l-ewwel poeżiji bikrin tat-tfulija huma fl-ewwel taqsima “Il-Qtar f’Sbieħ il-Jum”. Kull fażi fiċ-ċiklu tal-ħajja tal-awtur tibda b’poeżija forma tal-ħajja u tuża l-metafora tal-qtar mal-mixja tal-jum.

Il-Prof Charles Briffa josserva dan dwar it-titlu u l-istruttura tat-tqassim tal-ktieb: “‘Il-Qtar li Nħobb’ huwa titlu pożittiv għax għandu żewġ kunċetti siewja ta’ ottimizmu lejn it-tama... Għaldaqstant meta simbolikament nwaħħdu l-kunċett ta’ “qtar” mal-kunċett ta’ “nħobb” il-ġabra sħiħa tiġi espressjoni ta’ barka li essenzjalment tistqarr li hemm grazzja li tista’ tagħti l-ħajja fil-kontemporanjetà tagħna. U din il-grazzja hija t-tama li taħdem bħala riġenerazzjoni. It-tlaqqiġ tas-sabiħ mal-idea ta’ ħajja mill-ġdid jidher ġej mill-interess tiegħu għall-mużika u mill-ħidma tiegħu fin-nursing.”

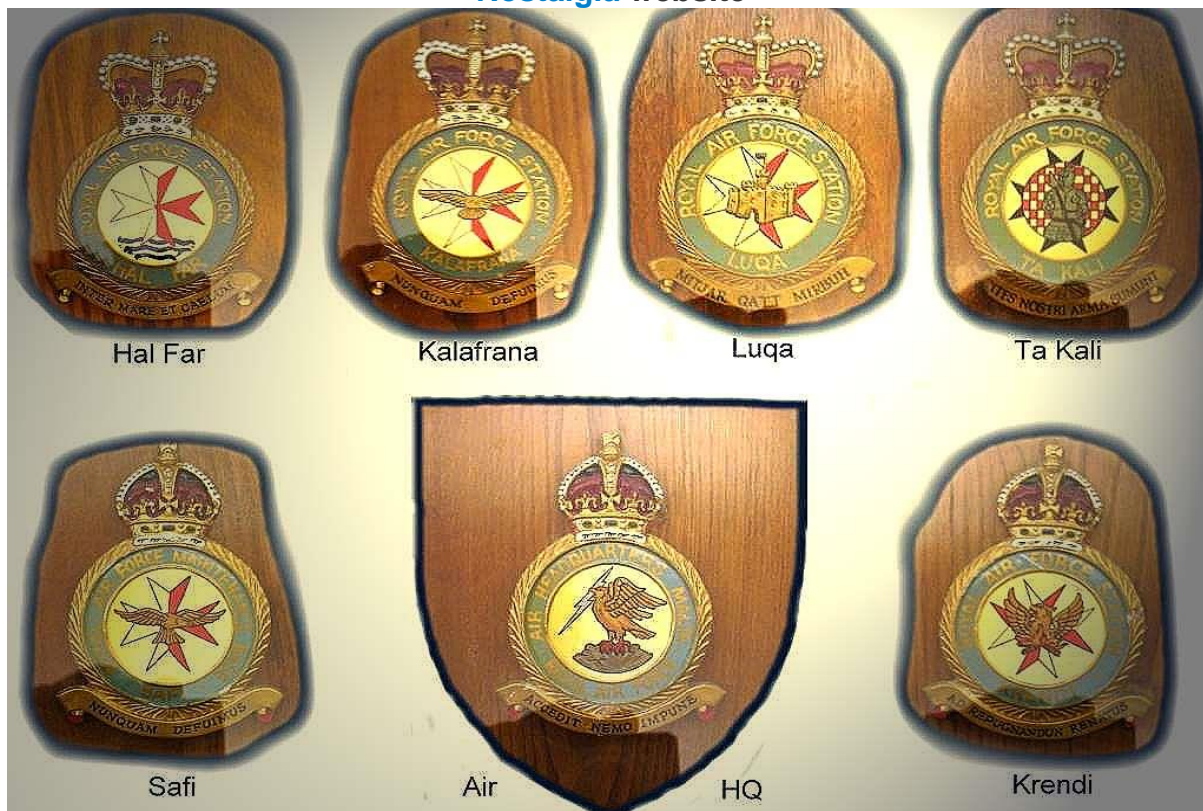
Il-ktieb jinkludi wkoll studju kritiku ta’ Tarcisio Zarb, studju li joħroġ il-forma mentis tal-awtur u jispjega b’mod analitiku kif Sharples jnissel u jwelled il-poeżija. Fi kliemu stess, Zarb jistqarr li: “Għal Jesmond Sharples, il-poeżija ma tiqafx biss fil-livell ta’ ħass, sentiment, emozzjoni, ħsieb jew xi tip ta’ raġunar jew dijalettika, imma hija relazzjoni wkoll mal-kelma. Għalih il-kelma, daqskemm ukoll il-frażi u l-binja sintattika u sintagmatika, imsieħba ma’ versifikazzjoni għanja klassika-romantika, daqskemm moderna u xi waqtiet postmoderna, iwassluh biex ikun il-wassiel ta’ sentimenti permezz ta’ kelma magħżula. Għaldaqstant għal Sharples il-kelma hija sagra. Hemm l-għażla speċifika tal-kelma. Bħal qisu jrid jgħid u jsostni li f’kull kelma hemm poeżija intimistika, li qiegħda tistenna lill-poeta biex ifaqqasha u joħroġha minnha nfiha.”

Dal-ktieb jinkludi fih ammont rappreżentattiv ta’ x’kiteb l-awtur f’dawn l-aħħar 40 sena. Sharples għandu diversi kitbiet oħra li għadhom ma rawx id-dawl u li nisperaw li ma ndumux ma narawhom pubblikati. Il-ktieb jista’ jinx tara onlajn minn <https://www.bdlbooks.com/> jew <http://www.mireva.com/>

“Il-poeżija ta’ Sharples hija awtentika għax donnha qisha żveljarin li jirnexxilu jqajjem fil-qarrejja-semmiegħa tiegħu sentimenti li kienu hemm fihom diġà, rieqda. Hi poeżija intensa għax twassal għall-gost estetiku: gost li jtnissel mhux biss mill-mużikalità tal-lessiku, iżda wkoll mill-fatt li terġa’ tqanqal l-esperjenzi qodma, imghoddija. U fuq kollox għandha l-kapaċità li tibdel l-esperjenzi senswali u spiritwali f’simboli li mbagħad iħallu effett qawwi fil-kuxjenza tal-qarrej.” – Dr Andrew Sciberras

Crests of RAF Bases in Malta Courtesy of the War Museum, St Elmo.

Photograph of the plaques was taken by David Gerrard and is on the [Tal Handaq Nostalgia](#) website



Blue Rock Thrush - The national bird of Malta

This photograph of the Blue Rock Thrush was taken in Oman by Hilary White, a renowned photographer in the area who has an amazing collection of photographs about birds of Oman. She spotted this quite by chance and took the excellent photograph from a long distance at ISO5000 (doesn't mean much to me but I believe photographers

will be impressed).

This particular bird must have been visiting Oman but it's a long way from Malta so makes you wonder how, and why, it turned up on the Northern coast of Oman.



AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION:

Dak li l-Lejl l-Hallik Tghid (What the Night Lets You Say)

Synopsis:

The 10 stories in this collection, just like any self-respecting collection of medieval tales, are framed by a prologue and an epilogue. And some of the characters in the stories, like the bishop in 'Il-Barranija' ('The Foreign Woman') or the dying father in 'Mort Naraha, Pa' ('I Went to See Her, Pa'), could easily have inhabited Boccaccio's Decameron. In fact, the tension in many of the stories arises from the coming together of the past (or, at least, a previous way of life) and the present. Many of the narrators are travellers, moving from one point of their existence to another, trying to understand a life that they have lived but never fully comprehended, or trying to undo a part of the past that did not go according to plan. Very often their travels take them from metropolitan Europe to the periphery or the other way round, and these seemingly opposite worlds that have become so close in contemporary Europe serve as background to the lives of the different characters, who realize, or at least help us readers realize, that life is still lived at different rhythms in different parts of the world. In some parts, a person's value is gauged by how often their mobile phone is changed for a newer model; in other parts, lovers have the luxury of waiting 45 days for a home-made liqueur to mature, a symbol of the time they have for each

other and for each other's stories. In fact, this could be read as a book about storytelling, not only as a form of pleasure that is shared between writer and reader, or narrator and listener, but more importantly as a gift that's given with love and needs love to be appreciated.



Pierre J. Mejlak, Malta

About the author: Born in Malta in 1982, Pierre J. Mejlak has been writing since he was young. Mejlak has written books for children, adaptations, a novel for adolescents and two collections of short stories, winning numerous awards, including five National Book Awards, the Commonwealth Essay Writing Award and the Sea of Words European Short Story Award.

His first collection of short stories for adults, Qed Nistenniek Niezla max-Xita (I'm Waiting for You to Fall with the Rain) was published to critical and popular acclaim in February 2009. His second collection of short stories, Dak li l-Lejl l-Hallik Tghid (What the Night Lets You Say), considered by most critics to be superior to the previous collection of short stories, was published in June 2011. One of the short stories included in the latter book, 'Nixtieq Nghajjat lil Samirah' ('I Want to Call Out to Samirah') won the Sea of Words European Short Story Award.

A number of his short stories have been translated into English, French, Catalan, Portuguese, Serbian, Arabic, Spanish, Indonesian and Italian and were read at numerous literary festivals around Europe and the Middle East. Mejlak's award-winning novel for adolescents Rih Isfel (Southern Wind) has been turned into a 13-episode prime-time TV series for Malta's NET TV.

<http://www.pierrejmejlak.com/index.html>

NAMES OF MALTESE BABIES

BY Michaela Griscti I cannot tell you the number of times I've heard a mother shout out their child's name, only for my reflex reaction to be masking a chuckle or eye roll.



Why would you give your child a name that could potentially be the target of taunt or laughter? Do parents nowadays understand that bullying is still very rampant? Not only that, but as if it weren't bad enough, now said taunting extends to cyber bullying, and with many kids nowadays having their own Facebook account, it can get very nasty really quickly. So let's delve deeper into the creative juices of said parents...

The Androgynous Hybrid Admittedly, these are on the top of my least-favourite list, and they include botched up names like: Josmar, Shaunvic and Marcon, whose parents, I'm guessing, were named Joseph & Marija, Shaun & Victoria and Mario & Connie, respectively. How cute.

The Linguistic Tragedy What many people fail to understand is the fact that people don't think about the nicknames or derisive quips their names could generate. To give you a hint, think about the names Horace and Joshua, and let yourself mull over the barrage of teases their names can be the target of.

The Ode to Maltese Phonetics Think on the lines of names such as Alix instead of Alex, and Mixhal instead of Michelle, who'll probably grow up to befriend a girl called Defne. Then there's Delyth, which although in Welsh translates to 'neat and pretty', when read in a Maltese accent, sounds like 'murder'. Then you have the collection of traditional names massacred: Kristjan, Elexja, Xon, Xerin.

The All-Rounder Train Wreck

This list includes completely 'creative' names that cannot be traced back to any context or to any

particular meaning. These include innovative names like Shaziah, Sherizyenn, Ajson, Bitania, Kelzen and Clayona Carrielis.

The Tongue Twisters

Ah, the obligatory tongue-twisters, which, with each passing year, are becoming more common and thus more of a challenge. Some of the best include Thisseanne, Shaznolee, Zanishielle, Zashielle, Zeshinzer, Zhayouna, Zadeyshia, Zaleishia, Zakishyia-Ann.

The One-Syllable, Three-Lettered Names There was also an increase in popularity of three-lettered names. Forget the classics such as Eva, Eve, Lee or Amy. There's also Ema, Eli, Ela, Ena and Ana, which are not so uncommon or eccentric. However, recently there have been some very original contributions such as Kai, Izz and Vuk, Una and Ada, Aya and Jad.

The Celebrity-Inspired Names Needless to say, Hollywood always leaves an imprint on people's bouts of inspiration, with babies named after people in celebrity spheres. I mean, why wouldn't there be, right? There's Ashton after Ashton Kutcher, Diaz who got her name from the surname of actress Cameron Diaz and good old baby Angelina Joyce. Wow, just, wow.

I must admit, I'm always at a loss as to whether laugh or weep for humanity when I hear about such names. Let's be honest, some creations seem to defy all understanding. I wonder if a time will come when there will be tough legislation, reigning parents in when naming their poor kid.

The most obvious explanation for the free-for-all naming debauchery is that parents feel they want their kids to be different, and that there's no other way for this to occur than to give them an exclusive name. They may think it's fun and will cause no harm, since it distinguishes their child from anyone else. But let's face it, parents need to be more mindful when it comes to names.

Believe it or not, the above list I provided you with are all real names, most of which are on the **Public Registry** for babies born just last year. So, you might ask, does the Public Registry have any control over names?

According to Article 242 (1) of the Civil Code (chapter 16): "The director shall not receive any act which is not written in clear and legible characters, or which contains abbreviations, or which may appear to him to be otherwise defective or irregular."

I think it's still a far cry from protecting our future generations from the collection of letter debris that some people classify as names. Alas, the mind boggles.



Beyond a Heritage

Rachael Cini

Being Maltese has always been a huge part of who I am. Often, the joke in my group of friends is that, "You know

Rachael is Maltese before you actually know her name." It's true, really.

Being Maltese for me was always more than just a heritage; it was a set of characteristics that defined us as a people – to be hardworking, determined and to never give up. Whether it'd be career, school, or improving myself as a person this was something I strove to live by.

When I first began my full-time career, I knew graduate school was something I wanted to pursue. This endeavor needed to be budgeted for, and it wasn't going to come cheap. Graduate school scholarships are very few and far between – and even more so when you have a full time job. Many schools seemingly assume you have no other bills to pay, or that because you have a full-time job that you also have all the means necessary to pay your way through school.

The news of the Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Grech Cumbo Family Foundation scholarship was really a

blessing. It also provided an avenue to become even more involved within the Detroit Club. I initially found out about the scholarship in 2015 per Mark Trzeciak, but at the time did not qualify as the deadline had passed. When it came time for 2016 to come around, I made sure it was on the top of my mind and did everything possible to secure it. However, doing so would not have been possible without the help of Mark Trzeciak and Brian Vella. Brian and Mark both helped me find ways to gain volunteer hours at the Detroit Club. Some of these volunteer opportunities included selling pastizzi, setting up for festas, or help cleaning up. Both of these individuals were key to my success in securing this scholarship.

This was the first scholarship that really held a lot of value in multiple ways to me. Sure, the financial aspect of it was a huge bonus, but it was mostly the symbolic value that was most important to me - that I had been fulfilling the values of our people. The scholarship helped showcase that I was both making strides in the betterment of both myself and the community as well, something I couldn't be more pleased about. I believe that this scholarship represents a student who has been and will continue to be dedicated to the Maltese Community, and encourage any student who believes that they fit this criteria to apply.

*** For more information about applying for the Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Grech Cumbo Family Foundation Scholarship, please contact the MABSI executive board or email mabsi.detroit@gmail.com. **Rachael Cini** is a Sales Planner at Comcast Spotlight and a Master's Candidate at Walsh College studying Marketing.*



**Her Majesty
Queen
Elizabeth the
Second in
Malta
In 1949
Chatting with a
Maltese lady
Wearing the
Ghonnella**



Call for papers deadline approaching!

The call for papers and posters for the upcoming *Living Cities, Liveable Spaces: Placemaking & Identity* is closing soon. The conference will take place on the 22nd-24th November 2017 in Valletta, Malta.

The Valletta 2018 Foundation is inviting contributions from academics, researchers, artists, urban planners, urban designers and practitioners from around the world related to any of these themes. Abstracts (250 words) addressing the conference themes will be received until **21st April 2017 via email at research@valletta2018.org**.

The full call for papers and posters is available here or from the conference website. For further information, contact the Valletta 2018 Foundation on the email above or on (+356) 2124 2018. Interested international applicants are encouraged to apply for travel funding through the Roberto Cimetta Fund Mobility Funding Programme (deadline 15th April 2017).



Two London apartments for Puttinu Cares through €1m Xarabank fundraiser

Charity telethon raises funds for children receiving treatment in the UK

The funds will be used to help families with members receiving medical care in the UK.

A charity telethon organised by Friday night show *Xarabank* raised more than €1 million in three hours yesterday evening, with donations still coming in at the time of writing. The funds will go to the Puttinu Cares Foundation, which helps local families cover costs related to receiving vital medical treatment in the UK.

The foundation hopes to add a block of apartments close to central London hospitals to the 12 it already has in Sutton, which it makes available to the families of local children in the care of Royal Marsden Hospital doctors.

Donations kept coming in throughout the evening and into early Saturday morning, with anyone pledging €300 or more given the chance to have their name engraved on one of the apartments the foundation will buy using donated funds. As of midnight, €1,100,000 had been raised.



Russia pulls out of Eurovision after singer barred from Ukraine

Russian broadcaster Channel One will not broadcast the Eurovision Song Contest because the country's competitor has been barred from host country Ukraine.

Russia's competitor Julia Samoilova performed in Crimea in 2015

The Russian television station Channel One has announced that it will not take part in next month's Eurovision song contest or broadcast the competition because its contestant has been barred from the host country, Ukraine.

Ukraine is refusing to allow Julia Samoilova to perform at Eurovision because she toured Crimea in 2015, after the peninsula was seized by Russia in 2014. Ukraine banned the Russian performer under a law which excludes anyone who entered Crimea via Russia. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which produces the competition, condemned the ban, saying Ukraine is undermining the non-political nature of the contest.

Frank Dieter Freiling, chairman of the event's steering committee, said the ban "thoroughly undermines the integrity and non-political nature" of the contest and its mission to unite nations in friendly competition. But he added: "Our top priority remains to produce a spectacular Eurovision Song Contest in May." The union, which produces Eurovision, said it had offered two possible solutions to Channel One. The proposals were for Samoilova to perform via satellite from Russia or for another contestant to be allowed to travel to Ukraine to take her place.

Channel One turned down both options. "Unfortunately this means Russia will no longer be able to take part in this year's competition," the EBU said. "We very much wanted all 43 countries to be able to participate and did all we could to achieve this." Russia and Ukraine have been at loggerheads since the annexation of Crimea and the subsequent separatist conflict in east Ukraine which Moscow is accused of stoking.

Ukraine is hosting Eurovision because its singer, Jamala, won in Sweden last year, with her song 1944, about the suffering endured by her ancestors during deportations under the regime of the Soviet dictator Josef Stalin. Many Russians bristled at the song, which they saw as a tacit criticism of Crimea's annexation. You can watch the European Song Festival on SBS (AUST) on 12-14 Mar 2017

This Newsletter has been set up to encourage and promote the study of Maltese history, heritage and culture around the world. Aware of the need to present Malta's history to students and researchers in a rich multimedia format, we strive to build an extensive database of articles and research papers, old new and contemporary photos, digitalised old texts etc. through this Newsletter.



Therefore, our objectives are:

- to promote the knowledge of Maltese history among our Diaspora,
- to attract cultural tourists to Malta by making them aware of the richness of our unique culture,
- to encourage the preservation of Maltese heritage by making the public aware of what it signifies and
- to provide the readers, young and not so young, with informative, educational and enjoyable reading.

We invite all those who are interested in the study of Maltese history and culture to contribute to this Newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article, photos or other relevant content, please contact us on honconsul@live.com.au. You will receive full credit for your work

L-UNIVERSITÀ TA' MALTA



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA



The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the Collegium Melitense which was set up through direct papal intervention on 12 November 1592. This college was run by the Jesuits on the lines of their other colleges established elsewhere and known as 'Collegia Externorum', catering for non-Jesuit students. By a papal Bull of Pope Pius IV, dated 29 August 1561, confirmed later by a further Bull of Pope Gregory XIII, dated 9 May 1578, the Jesuits were empowered to confer the degrees of Magister Philosophiae and Doctor Divinitatis. However, the foundation deed specified that besides Philosophy and Theology, other subjects such as Grammar and the Humanities should also be taught.

Following the abatement of the plague of 1675, Grand Master Nicolò Cottoner appointed Fra Dr Giuseppe Zammit as 'lettore' in Anatomy and Surgery at the Sacra Infermeria on 19 October 1676. This attempt at formalising medical teaching at the Order's hospital is considered by many as the beginning of our medical school. Zammit went on to establish the first medical library on the island as well as a medicinal herb garden in one of the ditches of Fort Saint Elmo.

After the expulsion of the Jesuit Order from Malta in 1768, Grand Master Pinto appropriated all the revenue accruing from its property on the island with the aim of establishing a 'Pubblica Università di Studi Generali'. The decree constituting the University was signed by Pinto on 22 November 1769, having been authorised to do so by the papal Brief, 'Sedula Romani Pontifici', received on 20 October 1769. On 25 May 1771, a Collegio Medico was set up as one of the faculties making up the University. At the time of the foundation of the University, the 'Principe dell'Accademia dei Medici' was the surgeon Michelangelo Grima who also held the combined chair of Anatomy and Surgery at the Medical School, whilst the Professor of Medicine was Giorgio Locano. There are some 11,500 students including over 1000 international students (450 are visiting students) from 92 different countries, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of them run on the modular or credit system.

In 2017 - Well over 3,000 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general. For the academic year 2015-2016 approximately 2,500 students are registered as pre-tertiary students at the Junior College, which is also managed by the University. In 2016 there were 24 graduation ceremonies. Today the University has fourteen Faculties, a number of Institutes and Centres and two Schools. The total floor area occupied by the (Main) University Library building is between 5,000 and 6,000 square metres. A collection of nearly one million volumes is housed throughout the Main Library, Branches and Institutes. The Library currently subscribes to over 60,000 e-journals, 308 print journal titles and a growing collection of e-books.

Maltamasters Basketball Tournament raises funds for Puttinu Cares

The Third Malta Masters Basketball Tournament was held recently at the Ta'Qali Sports Pavilion. Six local and international teams participated in the Men's Over 40 category while for the first time a Ladies Competition was held seeing the participation of three teams including a team from Sussex

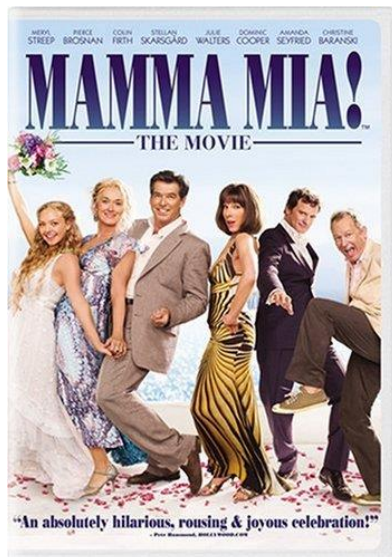
In the Men's Category the winners of the past two editions, 'Tal-Ajkla', and 'London Eagles' saw stiff competition from 'MSC Falcons' which is a team of Serbian nationals based in Malta, 'Malta Masters Suns', 'Tuesday Jazz' and 'Kraukli' from Latvia who took part for the first time. The Ladies Competition saw the participation of two local teams, 'Malta Masters' and 'Malta Hoopers' together with 'Sussex Select' from the UK.

The Latvian team Kraukli emerged as worthy winners after beating London Eagles in a tense Final while the local team Tuesday Jazz won the battle for third place by seeing off MSC Falcons. Sussex Select were crowned winners of the Women's Category.

After having participated under the Malta Masters banner in a number of international Masters tournaments, the organisers of this Tournament, Predrag Andrejevic, Peter Perotti and Mark Vassallo are aiming to establish the Malta Tournament as one of the key events in the Calendar of Basketball tournaments for the Over 40's. The response for this year's Tournament was encouraging and a number of local and international teams are already lined up for the 2016 Tournament.

This year the Organisers agreed to donate proceeds to Puttinu Cares after having extended support to the Malta Community Chest Fund during the past two editions. At the end of the Tournament, the Chairman of Puttinu Cares Dr Victor Calvagna together with the President of the Basketball Association, Paul Sultana presented awards to the winners. The Organisers were supported by the Malta Basketball Association and the Maltese Serbian Community while a number of sponsors extended their generous support to help raise funds. These included Azzopardi Fisheries, Rado Systems, Quest, Ofion Software, Cro-Ser Company Limited, Billboard Advertising Limited, Caffè Raffael, Happy Days Childcare Centre and Farsons. *Pedja, Mark and Peter*

'My Fair Lady' and 'Mamma Mia' to be staged in 2018



FM Theatre (MALTA) will produce both musicals to mark its landmark 20th anniversary

Renowned local theatre production company FM Theatre will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018 by staging two major musical productions directed by top local theatrical directors.

My Fair Lady will play at the Mediterranean Conference Centre from 2-4 February 2018 under the direction of Denise Mulholland, while the Maltese premiere of *Mamma Mia* will be directed by Chris Gatt from 13-15 April 2018.

My Fair Lady tells the famous story of Eliza Doolittle, immortalised on film by Audrey Hepburn, who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins. The original Broadway run of the musical starred Julie Andrews in the role of Eliza and set a record for the longest run of any show on Broadway up to that time. It features memorable musical tunes including *Wouldn't It Be Lovely?*, *The Rain in Spain*, *I Could Have Danced All Night* and *On the Street Where You Live*

MALTESE IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Photo Gallery - 1950s

With the end of World War II, the 1950s brought great prosperity to the United States and the Maltese who had made their homes in Detroit in the 1920s and 1930s took part in that growth of wealth. Families began to enjoy job stability, vacation homes "up north", and home ownership in the metro-Detroit area. This is also the decade of the young generation who became the first truly Maltese-Americans, sons and daughters of immigrants but themselves Americans born and bred. Speaking Maltese at home and English in public without a second thought. New immigrants helped to bring new life into the Maltese community as well. Thousands would come to Detroit after the war, escaping the economic downturn in Malta for jobs with friends and family in the still booming auto industry.

But for the Maltese community, the 1950s also represent a great time of change and scattering. St. Paul's Maltese Catholic Church on 4th Street and Plum closed and was demolished to make way for the Lodge Freeway, an urban renewal program which cut Corktown in half destroying the fabric of many ethnic communities. With the loss of St. Paul's and the segmenting of the neighborhood, coupled with growing prosperity for many, the Maltese joined others in moving out of the city and into the suburbs. This movement from Corktown saw Maltese scatter to the Northwest side of Detroit and suburbs like Dearborn, Westland, and Redford



Christmas Dinner 1957 - Archival Data

Pictured here are two Maltese families enjoying Christmas dinner in their Corktown home. From left to right (adults only) is Gelarda DeMarco, Guza Marmara, Francesca Muliatt, Charles DeMarco, (Half-out of the picture) Emmanuel Muliatt. The families gathered often at Christmas and this picture is from 1957 in the DeMarco house on Abbott Street. This photograph was donated digitally in 2014 by Diane DeMarco Markavich, daughter of Charles and Gelarda. **Source: Diane DeMarco Markavich** Photograph date: 1957



DeMarco Family 1947 - Archival Data

Charles (Germanis) DeMarco is pictured here with his wife, Gelarda, and daughter, Diane in front of their car and house on Abbott Street in Corktown during the mid-1950s. Charles first emigrated to Windsor, Ontario in 1948 before returning to Malta in 1950. He returned later that year with his wife Gelarda and the family settled in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit.

This photograph was digitally donated in 2013 by Diane DeMarco Markavich. **Source: Diane DeMarco Markavich** Photograph



MALTESE-AMERICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC. MISSION AND HISTORY

The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. (M.A.B.S.I.) is a benevolent society situated in the heart of Corktown, Detroit that's main purpose is to promote the advancement of the Maltese American Community in the Metro Detroit and surrounding areas, as well as educate and welcome any other ethnicity to join and participate in our family oriented club.

2015 was the 75th anniversary of the club, however the club has been situated in it's current location since 1963. The club consists of a bar/lounge area, rental hall (large and small) as well as several means of entertainment. We pride ourselves on our gatherings with the largest and most ornate being the Feast of The Virgin Mary (Marija Bambina)(September 15)) but celebrated over Labor Day Weekend at the club. Here you will find delightful Maltese foods and treats including but not limited to: Pastizzi, Rabbit Stew, Baked Rice and Macaroni, Figoli, among others. This celebration is family oriented and there is all day entertainment.

In addition to the aforementioned, the club also promotes many sporting events throughout the community, sponsoring and have sponsored several men's and co-ed soccer teams. MABSI's main commitment is to promote awareness of the Maltese Heritage as well as help the Maltese American Community in the Detroit and surrounding areas maintain and promote the heritage we all share. The club has recently added cooking and baking classes to our offerings and the first several were very well received and were quite successful. We have offered classes on Qassatat, as well as Brigoli, and plan to offer Figoli in March in preparation for Easter.

As always, should you have any questions regarding the club, or membership do not hesitate to ask. We at MABSI are always at your service. You can easily contact us via email, writing to mabsi.detroit@gmail.com.



Shamrock Bingo Hall

33111 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150

(734) 427-6380

Monday and Tuesdays: Doors open at 4:00

Bingo starts at 6:30

Saturday: Doors open at 4:00

Bingo starts at 6:00

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OVER \$3000 @ 56 Numbers!!!!

Welcome to our new blog! Our aim is to release posts that discuss all things related to Malta, Detroit, and our community as a whole. From news stories, sports, and community activities. We hope our posts are insightful, occasionally thought-provoking, and most importantly a pleasure to read! VISIT OUR NEW BLOG: <http://www.detroitmaltese.com/blog>

OUR READERS COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

(Some of our Readers)

Anthony Valletta, Dr. Carmen Dalli (NZ), Mary Saliba (Adelaide), Greg Borg (Vict), Emmanuel Mifsud (NSW), Dr. Gioconda Schembri (Vict), Mons Philip Calleja (Malta), Joseph Flores (Malta) Kav. Joe Attard (Gozo), Charles N. Mifsud (NSW), Ron Borg (Adelaide), Miriam Belli (Aust), Carmen Baxter (NSW), Sandra Jackson (Gozo), Lina Brockdorff (Malta), Maria Saliba (Adel), Carmen Theuma, Sam Camilleri (NSW), cph Buttigieg (malta), Carmen Gatt (Gozo), Bonnie Galea (Adel), Tarcisio Zarb (Malta) Jesmond Sharples (Malta), Greg Caruana (Aust), Sergio Grech, Marylou Fava (Malta), Dr Joseph Pirotta (AbuDabi), Sam Gatt, Alfred Simiana, Sam J. Muscat (Vict), Ghaqda tal-Malti- Universita (Malta), Jane Galea (Vict), Paul Vella (Vict), J Quattromani (NSW), Emmanuel Attard, Joe Scerri, Mark Micallef Perconte (Malta), Miariam Jackson (Adel) Ray Grima (Adel), Greg Caruana, Fr. Norbert Bonavia, Charles Gatt, Antoinette Mascari, Fr. Tarcisio Micallef, John and Doris Mangion, Michael Seychell, George Debono, Cr. Edgar Agius (Adel), Marika Fotiou (Adel), Fred and Anna Flask (ACT), Harry and Mary Bugeja (Adel), Paul Sammut, Patrick Sammut, Kristian Bonnici, Maltese Historical Society (Victoria), Irene Cooper, Jon Mallia, Maltese Association of Western Australia Inc., Grupp Letteratura Maltija ta' Victoria, Lucy Stewart, Joe Dimech, Monte Dimech, Joe Mercieca (Malta), Anna Attard, Joseph Tabone (Aust), Lorraine Testa, Sr. Vittoriana Debattista, Joseph Meli, Emmanuel Camilleri, Charles Micallef, L.Vella, Eric Vella, G. Borg-Barthet, Joe Pellicano (Vict), Maria Catania, Dr. Clemente Zammit, Jessie Borg (Adel), Cettina Marsh, Albert Sammut. Mireille Vella, Ben Cordina, Joe Pavia, Peter Paul Portelli, Joe Vella, Salvino Giusti, Sandra Micallef, Fr. Noel Bianco, Lino Vella, Karen Chetcuti (UK), Tessie and Victor Mansueto, Lillina and Joseph Camilleri, Mary and Alfred Borg, Andrew Borg (Adel), Vince Zammit (Adel), Tanya Arena (UK), Carol Brown, Maltese Aged Care Association of South Australia, Maltese Guild of South Australia, Carmen Debono, Lou Briffa, Charlie and Adelaide Farrugia

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

**WE ARE
FAMILY**

(Adel), Andrew Sabbatini, Mary and Manuel Scicluna, John Calleja (Adel), Victor Bartolo, Mary Bugeja (Vict) Mons. A.Vella, Carmen Galea (Canada), Stephen Calleja (USA), Antoine Mangion (NSW), Bigeni Family, Fred Aquilina (USA), Armando Catania, Lawrence Scerri (NSW), Paul Calleja (WA), Joseph Montebello, Joe Axiaq, Manny Bonello (Vict), Paul Simmons, Katie Cassar, Charles Gatt (Vict), Doris and Leli Farrugia, Hon Jing Lee MP (Adel), Leesa Vlahos MP (Adel), Paul Paris, George Saliba (Vict), Louis Parnis (NSW), Samantha Caruana, Rosemary Norton (Adel), Roderick Bovingdon (NSW), Carmen Mamo, Anthony Cini, Alfred and Lillian Taliana (NSW), Tony Attard (Malta), Rita Caruana, Francis Savona, Frank Testa (Vict), Maria Muscat, Austin Debono (NSW), Mrs G. Scillio (Vict), Tony Bartolo (Vict), Mrs. J Sammut (QLD), Joe Galea, Paul Simmons, Victor Chircop, Mary Borg, Antonia Scicluna (Vict), George Brimmer (Vict), Chris Borg, John Farrugia (Adel), Anthony and Anna Farrugia (Adel), Charles Figallo (Adel), Joe and Gustu Vella, Steven Marshall MP (SA), Hon Zoe Battison MP (SA), Maltese Bowlers Club (NSW), Stacey Saliba, Tessamarie and MaryJane Agius, Jane and Eugenio Agius (Adel), Carmel Caruana (Italy), Fr. Gabriel Micallef, Lawrence and Annemarie Caruana, Assunta Camilleri, Sharon Simpson, Joe and Salvina Grech, The President, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Speaker of the Republic of Malta, Marco Carabott, Joseph and Carmen Chetcuti, Malta High Commission Canberra, Australian High Commission Malta, N. Cutajar, Joe Monsigneur, SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Paul Cutajar, Silvio Borg, Sr Lorraine Testa, Emmanuel Calleja, Alex Sammut, John Calleja (Adel), Ctaherine Calleja, Carmelo Psaila (Malta), Joseph Camilleri (Canada), Family Borg, Lucy Stewart (QLD), Sr. Teresa Buttigieg, Sam CJ Muscat (Vic), Miriam Swanson and Imelda Bianco, Agostino Bianco (Vic), Maltese Community Council of South Australia, Donald Agius (QLD), St. Bernadette Parish (Vic), Maltese Bowlers Social Group NSW Inc., Maltese Literature Group, Reskeon Maltese Assoc Inc, Joe Dimech, Andre D'Amato, Malta-Cuba Society, Alfred Mahoney, Arthur Simpson, Tessie Galdies, Mariana Galdies, Mary D'Amata, Joe and Katie Sghendo, Julia Kiripidis (NSW), A. John Seaton (Adel), Nicholas D. Chriscop (Vic), Barry Patterson (ACT), Ed Zahra (Adel), Manny Tabone, Lawrence Grech (Malta), Joseph Ebejer, Joyce Selvatico, Mgr. Benedict Camilleri, Family Aquilina, Francis X Grima, Emma dn roger Gammon, Gordon Sammut, Martin Sammut, Mirima Jackson, Ray Grima, m. sciberras, PJ Gambin, Peter Attard, Josephine and Harry Zammit Cordina (Malta), Jean Perrott (France), Nino Xerri, Rose Spiteri, Gino Briffa, Natalino Camilleri many more to come.....

**IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SUBSCRIBE
AND JOIN THE FAMILY**

Maltese Emigration to Brazil

Although reliable statistics are unavailable on the Maltese in Brazil, it seems that there were three differently aimed emigration instances of Maltese to Brazil. Research on this topic has been done only in Brazil. Difficulties, however, are great. Due to the fact that the Maltese had a British passport, the Brazilian authorities enlisted all Maltese coming to Brazil as British. There are even cases of some Maltese who changed their surnames giving them an "English" spelling.

When one looks at the São Paulo telephone directory one will find many "Maltese" surnames: Aquilina, Attard, Balzan, Bonello, Bonici, Calleja, Caruana, Cassar, Falzon, Fenech, Friggieri, Galea, Grech, Grima, Mallia, Meli, Muscat, Pirotta, Pisani, Said, Saliba, Sammut, Schembri, Spiteri, Tabone, Vassallo, Vella, Zahra, Zammit. Even if the spelling above has been taken *ipsis litteris*, one has to interpret the existence of these surnames with great caution since São Paulo is a melting-pot of Italian, Sicilian and Lebanese emigrants. Some contact has been tried with these families but was unfortunately



discontinued.

The first Maltese emigration to Brazil occurred in the 1910s. In the wake of massive European migration to South America in the last decades of the 19th Century and the first decades of the 20th, the Maltese Emigration Committee prepared to send some 30 families made up of field labourers to Brazil. On the 28th March 1912 a party of 73 emigrants made up of 13 families left Valletta on board the French steamer ss. Carthage for the port of Santos in Brazil. Father Pietro Paulo Charbon of Birkirkara accompanied the party. After changing over to the transatlantic steamer ss. Provence, they arrived in Santos on the 26th April, 1912. On the 18th April 1912 another group of 106 persons left Malta and arrived in Santos on the 19th May, 1912.

Maltese in Coffee Plantation



The first group was sent to work in the coffee plantation on the fazenda Santa Eulalia in the municipality of Brotas, state of São Paulo, about 183 km from the city of São Paulo. The second party was sent to do the same field work at the fazenda São José de Fortaleza. However, homesickness, insufficient information, lack of preparation, incompatibility and a lack of clear emigration policy from the British government in Malta caused the failure of this emigration. By August 1913 emigration to Brazil came to an end. Many returned to Malta, others stayed and fended for themselves.

The second emigration of Maltese to Brazil occurred in the late 20s and it was somewhat linked to the British entrepreneurship of railway building and maintenance in the state of São Paulo. Practically all present Maltese in Brazil knew Mr Dominic Colier (or Coleiro) from Floriana. He had an administrative post in the railway company linking São Paulo to Santos and the state of Paraná. In the last years of his life he lived as a pensioner paid by the British government. (photo) Mr. Colier with Maltese priests and sisters. - [Dr. Thomas Bonnici](#)

The third one occurred in the 50s and it was totally different from the previous ones. In the 50s Dom Geraldo Sigaud, then Bishop of Jacarezinho at the far east of the north of the state of Paraná, invited the Maltese Franciscan Sisters to help him in the diocese which was developing into a great economical region.

In the 1920s the northern part of the state of Paraná consisted of dense forest and a huge jungle. The land was bought by the Sudan Cotton Plantations Syndicate led by Simon Joseph Fraser (Lord Lovat) who planned its development according to well established rules. Thousands of emigrants from Europe and from the neighbouring state of São Paulo, began buying lands and transformed them into coffee plantations, cities and towns. The area hitherto inhabited scantily by Kaingang Indians was teeming with thousands of people in the space of thirty years.

Needless to say, the spiritual needs of these people were enormous and the Maltese Franciscan Congregation offered to send some sisters to Rolândia and Jaguapitã. However, in 1956 this huge diocese was subdivided into three dioceses: the diocese of Jacarezinho, Londrina and Maringá. Exactly at the beginning of the diocese of Londrina, the Archbishop's Seminary in Malta sent two seminarians, John Busuttil from Rahal il-Gdid and John Xuereb (deceased) from Naxxar, to study Theology at the Diocesan Seminary in Curitiba, the capital of the state of Paraná, in the south. They were ordained priests in 1959 by Dom Geraldo Fernandes, then Bishop of Londrina.

He had come to Malta and invited priests and seminarians to go to Brazil. In 1960, Bernard Gafá from Msida, Carmel Mercieca from Qormi, Francis Debattista (deceased) from Tarxien, Joseph Agius and Joseph Xuereb, two Gozitan seminarians, began their Theology course in Curitiba. In the meantime Fr. Peter Fenech from Dingli and Fr. Frank Tabone Adami from Gzira began their work in two Brazilian parishes. By the 60s all the above were working in the recently built towns of the north of the state of Paraná, together with Fr. Carmel Mifsud of Zejtun and Fr. George Zammit (deceased) from Birzebbugia.

In the 50s and 60s the missionary spirit of the Franciscan Sisters helped them to open creches and schools not only in the above mentioned places but also in the town of Presidente Prudente (in the south-west of the state of São Paulo), São Martinho, Umuarama and Curitiba.

On the other hand, the Maltese Province of the Dominicans sent many of its priests to the diocese of Paranaaguá, Ponta Grossa and Curitiba, all situated in the south of the state of Paraná. The Augustinians sent their priests to the state of Mato Grosso in the town of Três Lagoas where a huge dam was being built at that time and there was a great concentration of workers with their families, to the city of São Paulo and to Belo Horizonte, in the state of Minas Gerais.

Parallel to what was happening in the south of Brazil, Gozitan priests were attending the invitation of Dom Carlos Coelho and Dom Helder Câmara, bishops of Olinda and Recife in the state of Pernambuco, the northeastern state of Brazil. Fr. Paul Raggio from Birgu was the only Maltese diocesan priest in Recife at that time.

Returning to the mid-60s, the spirit of Vatican II urged many seminarians to leave their homeland

and go to Brazil. Thomas Bonnici from Zebbug, Paul Pirotta from Naxxar, Paul Brincat from Birkirkara, Carmel Bezzina and Philip Said, both from Zebbug, Edwin Parascandalo and Vincent Costa, both from Birkirkara, Lawrence Gauci from Mgarr, Anton Sammut (died in 1976) from Gzira and Peter Camilleri (died in 1992) from Floriana came to the seminaries of São Paulo and Curitiba and after studying Theology began to head parishes in the north of Paraná.

Due to the subdivision of the diocese of Londrina into that of Apucarana and Londrina, many others were reshifted to the diocese of Apucarana and others such as Dominic Camilleri from Floriana, Lucas Azzopardi from Rabat and Michael Pace from Hamrun are still working in the same diocese. Two lay missionaries, Tony Camilleri from Floriana and Mario Briffa from Rahal Gdid came for two years in Apucarana to help in parish work.

The Archdiocese of São Paulo and other adjacent dioceses received other Maltese priests such as Xavier Cutajar, Daniel Balzan, John Mallia, Andrew Zammit and Paul Mercieca. In 1977, the Maltese Dominican priest Walter Ebejer, brother of the late playwright Francis Ebejer, was consagrated Bishop of the diocese of União da Vitória in the south of the state of Paraná. After many years of diocesan work in Mosta and St. Julian's, Fr. John Caruana of Mosta decided to come to Brazil in 1984 and is still working in the Archdiocese of Maringá.

The Augustinian Sisters of Malta who had already a big boarding house for girls in Paranaíba, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, have now other pastoral responsibilities in Nova Londrina, in the state of Paraná.

Besides the above-mentioned priests, friars and nuns, there are some married Maltese too in Brazil. John Busuttil worked as an accountant in the Volkswagen car industry in Santo André and on retirement keeps a small restaurant in downtown Londrina. Paulo Pirotta works at the Volkswagen car industry in Santo André. Thomas Bonnici is full professor of English Literature at the State University of Maringá. Edwin Parascandalo is the director of the [National Service of Commercial Apprenticeship](#). Anthony Zammit and his sister Helen live in São Paulo. He works at the Felixal and she is a telephone operator. Dr. Vincent Flores Porsella, professor at Mackenzie University in São Paulo and a retired civil servant of the Education Department.



Parliamentary Secretary Justyne Caruana distributes Easter Figolli

GOZONEWS.COM

The Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing Dr Justyne Caruana, said that over the past few days she has had an enjoyable time meeting with some of the elderly and disabled persons and their families, who benefit from various services and

initiatives in Gozo. During her visits Dr Caruana wished everyone a Happy Easter and distributed traditional figolli. She also reiterated the Government's commitment for a fairer society.

Electronic vote counting for all elections from 2019 in Malta

THE MALTA INDEPENDENT



The Electoral Commission has taken the plunge and issued a tender for an electronic vote counting system for use in all elections from 2019 onward.

The advent of electronic voting will substantially trim down the time it takes to count votes, particularly given Malta's laborious Single Transferable Voting system, which takes days on end to produce the full results of electoral polling. The new system is expected to produce election results in a matter of a few

hours.

In its tender announcement issued this week, the Electoral Commission has made it clear that the system will certainly not be employed in the next general election, whether that is to be held this year or next, and specifies that it will be first used for tallying the results of the 2019 European Parliament and Local Council Elections.

It does, however, also specify that the system will be used in subsequent general elections, European Parliament, Local Council Elections and any casual election between 2019 and 2024.

The prospect of electronic voting, which would require a culture change for the electorate rather than the Electoral Commission, appears to be off the cards for the time being, as the tender document clearly specifies that: "Tenderers shall deliver a complete solution for the required infrastructure and services. The end-to-end solution includes the process from receipt of ballot boxes to the result being calculated and made available to the Electoral Commission for publication. This will require a broad range of technologies and capabilities."

Political parties had agreed last year to introduce electronic vote counting and the Electoral Commission had suggested that the technology would be introduced for the 2019 dual election. And with this week's announcement of the tender, the implementation of such a system has been confirmed. The system is expected to cost in the region of €3 to €4 million. The Electoral Commission had first announced its intention to go for electronic vote counting in June 2015 when it issued a Request for Information to conduct market research for the initiative.

The next general election will be the last to witness the all too familiar scenes of political party representatives crowding the counting hall in their hordes, keeping a keen eye on the vote counting process. And, of course, banging furiously on the Perspex when they see a ballot sheet being placed in the wrong pile or when they consider a vote to have been dubiously marked on the ballot sheet.

It will, as the adage goes, be the end of an era.

Second Lunch by Malta's Presidency hosted by the Maltese Embassy in Lisbon - PORTUGAL



Press Release Issue Date: Mar 23, 2017

The Portuguese Minister of the Interior Constança Urbano de Sousa addressed the EU and candidate countries' Ambassadors at the second lunch hosted by the Maltese Embassy in Lisbon on 15 March 2017 at the Corinthia Hotel Lisbon. The Minister said that Portugal supports Malta's ambitious agenda for its Presidency.

Portugal is a special partner contributing to the migratory crisis that put pressure on the national asylum system and the Schengen area as a whole. Portugal's position was one based on solidarity and commitment on the resolution of the actual migratory crisis. Portugal is one of the most effective member states that is cooperating in the resettlement programme as it has already hosted refugees from Turkey and last week it received 34 families from Egypt. The Minister said that Portugal fully agrees with the Maltese proposal to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation with the African countries on this matter. She said that we have to deal with smugglers but at the same time, we have to deal also with the issue of basic human rights and international law. Solidarity, protection of human rights and the right to asylum is at the core of our civilisation.

The Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Walter Mallia said that progress has been reported in Brussels regarding the implementation of the operational measures of the Malta Declaration of February 2017 and the European Council reiterated its determination to deliver on all the elements of the Malta Declaration. Support was also reiterated on the actions undertaken by individual member states to support the Libyan authorities as well as their North African and southern neighbours. Mr Mallia said that the EU Institutions and agencies, Member states, International organisation and agencies need to work together to strengthen this joint cooperation in order to take forward the implementation of the Malta Declaration. Only through this joint effort will we be in a position to adequately reply to the enormous challenge we are currently facing with regard to the EU's comprehensive migration policy.

Mr. Mallia also referred to the recent comments made by the Maltese Foreign Minister Dr George W. Vella, whereby he urged cooperation by EU member states in order to restrain the sale of merchandise such as boats, motor boards etc to Libya, which could help in the smuggling of migrants to Europe.



MATER DEI HOSPITAL MALTA

Mater Dei Hospital (MDH), also known simply as *Mater Dei*, is an acute general and teaching hospital, offering hospital services and specialist services. It is a public hospital located in Msida, Malta.

The hospital opened on 29 June 2007 replacing St. Luke's Hospital as the main public general hospital. The 250,000 square metre complex includes 825 beds and 25 operating theaters. It was built by the Swedish construction firm Skanska Malta JV. The project was planned to cost Lm 50,000,000 (around € 116,000,000), but rose to more than Lm 250,000,000 (around €582,000,000).

Skanska was entrusted with the building of a new general hospital in Malta, and the "state-of-the-art" Mater Dei Hospital cost over €700,000,000. Later, however, it was discovered that Skanska had used lower-quality cement of the kind that is generally used to build pavements. As a result, the hospital could not develop further floors or build a helipad on the roof.^[7]

University of Malta Affiliation - The hospital houses or caters for the faculties of Health Sciences, Medicine and Surgery, and Dental Surgery of the University of Malta. The hospital is located adjacent to the University of Malta. The hospital houses the Health Sciences Library which is a branch library of the University of Malta Library.

Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Hospital - The Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Hospital welcomed its first 50 outpatients on 22 December, 2014. The hospital started being excavated in 2010 and building started in 2012. It cost €52 million and an estimated €8 million a year are required to run it. The hospital is offering more advanced radiotherapy with two machines commissioned from the Leeds Spencer Centre, where they were introduced in 2013. The machines enable more precise radiotherapy and stronger doses reducing the length and frequency of sessions. Considerations by the Maltese Government for expanding radiotherapy services to include autologous transplants have also been made. The government has also considered the development of a clinical trials unit through which Maltese patients would be able to benefit from new medicines not yet on the market. Beds at the new hospital increased from the 78 at Boffa Hospital to 113 and the outpatient clinics from two to 12. The type of chemotherapy provided is more advanced. A new MRI machine will help reduce waiting lists and palliative care beds were also increased from the 10 at Boffa to 16. Patients and their families would be followed before, during and after treatment and more training was being provided for staff. A total of 47 new professionals have been recruited on its opening day.^[10]

New Visiting Hours From 26th October, 2015 Kindly note that from 26th October 2015, the following new visiting hours for most of Mater Dei Hospital wards will apply:

Monday to Sunday (including public holidays):

11:30 to 13:00 (2 visitors at any one time) 15:00 to 20:00 (2 visitors at any one time)

Soppa tal-Qara Ahmar – Pumpkin Soup**Ingredients:**

1 Large onion chopped
 2 tbs Olive Oil
 1 small can tomatoe pure
 700g pumpkin, peeled and diced
 75g semolina
 fresh grated Parmesan cheese
 salt & Pepper
 maltese bread slices

**Method:**

Heat the oil and fry the onion. Then add tomato pure and pumpkin. Fry gently for 5 minutes, make sure to stir continuously. Add 1 litre of boiling water, salt and pepper. Simmer until the pumpkin is well cooked.

Add 1 litre of boiling water, salt and pepper.

Simmer until the pumpkin is well cooked

Mash the vegetables manually (or use a blender for a finer texture)

Add Semolina gently to avoid lumps, and cook on a low heat for around 10 minutes.

**WE ARE INCLUDING THESE TWO MALTESE RECIPES
 BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**Spinach and Tuna Pie – Torta tal-Ispinaci u t-Tonn****Ingredients:**

500 g puff pastry
 1 large and 1 small tin of tuna fish (200 g)
 1 tin of ratatouille (200 g)
 2 kilos of fresh spinach, washed, cooked and well drained or one packet of frozen spinach.
 6 anchovy fillets
 12 olives chopped and stoned
 Large Can / a handful of cooked peas
 1 large onion, finely chopped
 4 cloves garlic, crushed
 3 tablespoons capers
 4 tablespoons each of olive oil
 fresh mint leaves
 2 tablespoons tomato puree
 a little sea salt and freshly ground pepper.

Method:

Heat some olive oil and toss in the chopped onion and crushed garlic and bake till it's gold. Throw in all the other ingredients one by one, bake them until every vegetable is well baked in the fats. There should be no liquids left in the pan. Cool the mixture before proceeding.

Get the pastry ready by rolling it out and lining it in the bottom of an oven dish. Add the cooled off mixture and press it down into the pastry case. Cover it with the pastry lid, seal the edges and prick all over with a fork. Bake the pie at 200° (400°F), or gas mark 6 for about 45 minutes until it's golden brown. Make sure it settles and eat it preferably at room temperature.