



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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**The Flag of the Order of Malta.
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of
St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta**



Dr Anglu Farrugia, Speaker of the Maltese Parliament, pays a visit to the Maltese Recourse Centre at Parramatta, N.S.W.

During a visit to Darwin to attend a commonwealth conference, Hon Anglu Farrugia flew to Sydney accompany with his wife Carmen to visit members of the family and meet with the Maltese Community.

During his short visit Anglu and his wife Carmen visited the Alfred Fenech Maltese Recourse Centre at Parramatta where Emanuel Camilleri president of the MCC of NSW greeted the couple and led them into the MRC where the High Commissioner to Malta HE Charles Muscat

and his wife Victoria, Consulate General of Sydney Mr Salvino Gusti and members of the Maltese Community awaited their arrival,

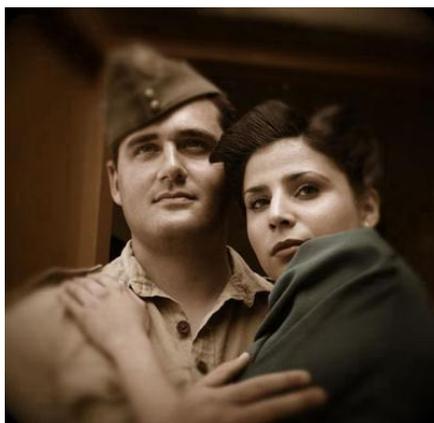
After few short speeches and exchange of gifts the party sheared some refreshments while Hon Anglu Farrugia and his party, mingled with the gusts and posing for photographs. *The Maltese Community Council of NSW wish to thank all those who contributed to this event.*



Dear Frank, Thank you for the well-presented publication of The Maltese e-Newsletter. You keep us united.
Mgr. Philip Calleja – Head of Emigrants Commission, Malta

Home Is Where The Heart Is

by Kat (Sudbury, Ontario, Canada)



On the edge of burnout and desperately needing to get away, I talked to my husband Chuck, about planning a vacation. I said I wanted to see the country where he was born and raised. **I wanted to see Malta.** It was to be my very first trip anywhere outside of North America.

We started planning the trip immediately; finding an apartment, booking a rental car, making flight arrangements and finally, getting in touch with **family that Chuck hadn't seen in over 30 years.** The six months leading up to our trip were full of excitement and stories, research and pictures. But nothing was as exciting as finally touching ground at the airport. We arrived on April 3 and **my life hasn't been**

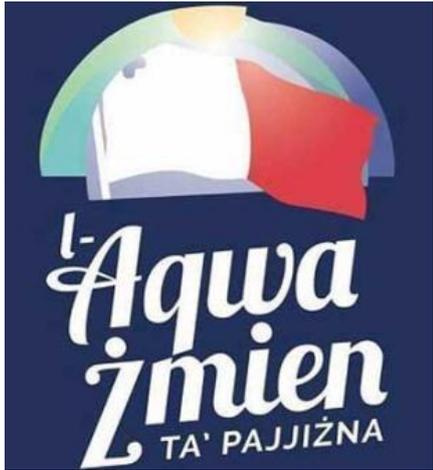
the same since. We had made it across the ocean to a different country, a different culture, a different language. As soon as we cleared customs there was a scream and Chuck's sister Connie was running towards us. Then came her husband George, her daughter Yana and daughter-in-law Fiona. Rib breaking hugs, and tears, and laughter, and even more tears ensued.

I knew at that moment, I had found a home. For three incredible weeks, we revisited the places of Chuck's childhood and discovered all the new places that had grown up since he had left the Island. We visited every historical and cultural site. We walked through the valleys, the fields, and the streets. We attended the **Strawberry Festival at Mgarr**, the **Good Friday procession at Mosta**, and the **Easter Sunday celebrations in Birgu.** Chuck and his family were concerned that the crowds would be overwhelming for me but all I could see were friendly, smiling faces. Kind faces. We visited with all the family and there was a LOT of family. Every day dawned with a new adventure just waiting around the corner.

I was in love with Malta. Underneath all of the sightseeing and tours, throbbed the true heartbeat of my Malta experience - **the people.** The Maltese people stole my heart. I have never felt so safe, so loved, and so cared for in my life. They treated me as if I had always been family, even complete strangers were there to laugh with us, talk with us, and share with us. One memory that will live with me forever was **sitting at an outdoor cafe in Valletta** eating a freshly baked chicken pie with the sun shining and people all around us laughing and talking. I remember thinking, "**this is what life was meant to be like**". I think that was the best meal I've ever had. And then, time started to pass too quickly. The remaining week of our trip dwindled to a few days, then a few hours. As we stood in the airport saying goodbyes, tears flowing, last hugs given, I felt that my heart would tear out of my chest and that I would never be whole again. Before the plane had left the ground I had decided that, come hell or high water, I would live in Malta.

By the time we arrived at Heathrow, I had confirmed that Chuck felt the same. When we arrived at Toronto airport, we were trying to figure out how long it would take to sell everything and get "back home". After a week of being back in Canada, still heartsick for Malta, reality sunk in.

We had family obligations (my parents are elderly and it would be wrong to leave them alone), work obligations, and life got in the way. With help from Chuck's family, we've begun to make a stronger, more sensible (although far less romantic) action plan. I am learning the language and applying for my Maltese citizenship this year. We will take things slowly, fulfill our obligations so when we move, it is with a clean slate. When friends ask why I want to move this is what I tell them: The people are incredible, the food is wonderful, the culture is outstanding, the weather is beautiful, the history is mind boggling, there's never a dull moment ... **how could I NOT want to move?** And, why aren't you coming with me.



New campaign logos look ‘a bit hurried in preparation’ – Head of UOM Media Faculty Joanna Demarco

Following Monday’s launch of the electoral logos and slogans by both the Nationalist and Labour Party, in the run up towards the snap general election on June 3rd, *The Malta Independent* spoke to local designers to gain a more critical analysis and

interpretation of the chosen campaign branding designs.

Dr Gorg Mallia, the head of the Media and Knowledge Sciences Faculty, graphic design lecturer at the University of Malta and well-known local cartoonist noted how both logos “look a bit hurried” in preparation. “There are a few elements that a bit of thought would have eliminated,” he explained, “both have gone for a Maltese flag theme, with the Nationalist Party (PN) logo being a bit cleaner than the rather muddled Labour Party logo,” he said.

Comparing the flag from the previous ‘Malta Tagħna Lkoll’ campaign to the ‘L-Aqwa Żmien ta’ Pajjiżna’ campaign, Dr Mallia says that the former was stylized in a lot of elements, whilst in the latter has a “photographically realistic flag, and the blurring of what looks like a lens flare obfuscates the background.” Speaking about the chosen font, which makes up more than half of the logo, he said that “the logotype has gone for a decorative font, normally associated with designs from decades ago, which contradicts the essential message that these are the best of times.”



When is Eurovision 2017?

- Semi-final 1: 9 May 2017,
- Semi-final 2: 11 May 2017,
- Grand Final: 13 May 2017,

The National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine (UA:PBC) has

proposed the dates for the shows, with the Grand Final to be held on 13 May 2017. These dates have been confirmed. Hosts of Eurovision 2017 are Oleksandr Skichko, Volodymyr Ostapchuk & Timur Miroshnychenko.

Participants EBU has announced that 43 countries will be competing in Eurovision Song Contest 2017 in Kyiv. After the withdrawal from Russia, the number of participants is now 42: The **running order of the two Semi-finals** has been decided by Ukrainian broadcaster UA:PBC. The running order is based on the Semi-final Allocation Draw. The allocation draw determined which countries take part in which of the two Semi-finals. EBU Member Broadcasters, on behalf of their countries, had until mid-September 2016 to formally submit their applications to take part in Eurovision 2017. Broadcasters could withdraw their applications before 10 October 2016 without penalty.

Host City: Kyiv - Two Ukrainian cities were in the run for hosting the contest: The capital Kyiv and Odessa, but after a long process Kyiv won the race and will be hosting Eurovision Song

Contest 2017.

Kyiv (or Kiev) is the capital of Ukraine and also the largest city. Kyiv hosted the 50th Eurovision Song Contest in 2005 as a result of Ruslana's "Wild Dances" victory in 2004. Kyiv also hosted Junior Eurovision in 2009 and 2013.

Population: 2,900,920

Hotels: 265 hotels, capacity: 23,000 in Region (19,500 in Kyiv itself)

Airports: 2 international airports: Boryspil and Zhuliany

Urban transport: Metro, bus, tram, trolleybus, intra-city ring railway service

Isaiah Firebrace will represent Australia at the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest



SBS has announced Isaiah Firebrace as Australia's contestant at the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest, which will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine, and broadcast exclusively on SBS in May.

Isaiah's new Eurovision song *Don't Come Easy* was also revealed tonight, performed by the artist on stage at an intimate event in Melbourne.

The Eurovision Song Contest will be broadcast over SBS's Eurovision weekend - **Friday 12, Saturday 13 and Grand Final Sunday 14 May at 7.30pm on SBS** with LIVE early morning broadcasts begin Wednesday 10 May at 5am on SBS.

Hailing from the small country town of Moama, 17 year old Isaiah first stepped into the spotlight last year when he was crowned winner of The X Factor Australia 2016. Isaiah's story is one of determination and passion for music, honing his craft with six hour round trips from regional Victoria to singing lessons every week, aspiring to become a professional artist.

Isaiah is already experiencing global success, with his first hit *It's Gotta Be You* going Platinum in Sweden, and charting in over 15 countries including Australia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and the US.

Isaiah's Eurovision song *Don't Come Easy* is an emotive ballad showcasing his vocal range and unique ability to connect with powerful lyrics, which, in this track, speak to fighting for your dreams even when it isn't easy. *Don't Come Easy* is written for Isaiah by DNA Songs duo David Musumeci and Anthony Egizii, the same team who wrote Dami Im's Eurovision hit *Sound of Silence* which won the prestigious Marcel Bezençon Composers Award for the best original composition at last year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Isaiah said:

"I'm so proud to be representing Australia as our entrant for the Eurovision Song Contest 2017. Even though it has been a dream of mine, never did I think for one minute it would be a possibility. To be able to share this news with my family and friends is unbelievable. I can't wait to go to the Ukraine to perform 'Don't Come Easy'. I will make Australia proud. Thank you to SBS and my label Sony for believing in me and giving me the opportunity of a lifetime."

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MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA
and at the website: www.ozmalta.page4.me





My Own Personal Knight of Malta

by Jane Scott (Somerset, England) **Enjoying Malta!**

For those familiar with Maltese history they will be well aware of the legendary **Knights of Malta**. However on my recent stay in Malta I had **my own personal knight**, not in shining armour, but my hero all the same! I shall explain ... Journeying to Malta for two weeks was our **perfect idea of a honeymoon**, combining my love of architecture and heritage with an appreciation for the Mediterranean lifestyle and climate. My brand new husband and I stayed in the heart of **Valletta** and I fell in love with the city, its history, its character, its wonderful people.

Armed with our map and guidebook, we explored the island from end to end taking in the beauty and drama of the place, from the awe-inspiring **Mdina** where we enjoyed the medieval fayre, to **Tarxien** where the **Hypogeum** took our breath away, from **Marsaxlokk** where we soaked up the atmosphere of a busy traditional Sunday market to the peaceful **Gozo**. We experienced on an almost daily basis the **fantastic local bus services** and grew to love those old vehicles with their quirks and fascinating decorations, and more fascinating drivers! We wined and dined and tried all the **Maltese delicacies**, the octopus, the rabbit, the bigilla, the gbejniet and of course the marvellous Maltese bread.

For my husband, a real ale drinker, it was an interesting experiment trying the local brews, the **Cisk** and the **Blue Label** going head to head in an attempt to find his favourite. Blue Label won, which amused local bartenders who sometimes had to search their back rooms to find the less popular beer!

And then of course **Kinnie**. Quite unusual but very palatable. Anyway, I digress ... Back to my knight in shining armour. We had walked for miles one day exploring **Valletta** and **Floriana** and ended up late one afternoon heading towards **Argotti Gardens**, the private garden of a knight dating from before 1805 which is now popular as a botanical garden, a place to wander and take in the beauty of the plantlife and flowers. However, just before we got to Argotti Gardens we were distracted by **St Philips Garden** right next door. From the gate it looked like a quiet, secretive garden and as it was on the Floriana Heritage Trail we thought we would explore. We found a small piece of paradise tucked away, the **Wignacourt Fountain** playing centre stage to a deserted garden on a fortification. Long paths with colourful flowers, prickly pears and rose bushes, all alone we wandered about enjoying the peace and quiet.

We had joked on the way in, that there was a padlock on the open gate and wouldn't it be funny if we were locked in for the night. We eventually wandered to the exit and realised it wasn't funny at all, **we had been locked in!** 10 foot high spiked gates prevented us getting out! No-one was walking past and our only observers were a couple of Maltese cats who looked rather amused at our predicament. We waited and we waited but no-one went past who could help us escape! It all looked rather hopeless until **my knight in shining armour decided to rescue his damsel in distress**.

He rather carefully scaled the gates with a great deal of effort and caution, the spikes on top were very sharp. Over he goes and manages to drop to the other side, although the spikes did manage to rip his trousers in several places but luckily there was no damage to him. My hero goes to summon help and the guardian of Argotti Gardens arrives with a key and lots of laughter. So, **ripped trousers and a daring rescue** and we didn't have to spend the night curled up with stray cats under a bush! We have so many good memories of Malta and it certainly was a **perfect honeymoon destination**. We hope to return one day, perhaps for a wedding anniversary but will be more careful in future not to get locked in anywhere!

Turnbull meets Trump 'like family'



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has jetted out of New York confident that ties with the US and President Donald Trump are rock solid.

Just before his departure for the airport Mr Turnbull repeatedly used one word to describe the Australian-US relationship: family.

That could seem apt to describe what has been a rollercoaster ride for Mr Turnbull and Mr Trump since the president took office on January 20.

Family members are known for having disagreements and then making up. Mr Turnbull, his wife Lucy, Mr Trump and First Lady Melania spent more than three

hours together behind closed doors and in full view at Thursday night's event to honour the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

'It was great for Lucy and I to meet with the president and Mrs Trump,' Mr Turnbull told reporters at the Morgan Stanley offices near Times Square.

'Again, that was more family than formal.' Australian and US officials were breathing sighs of relief after the two leaders seemed to enjoy each other's company.

Mr Trump, in his haphazard way, denied his January 28 phone call with Mr Turnbull was a rocky one.

He first told reporters at the Battle of the Coral Sea event the call was great, and Mr Turnbull agreed. But later in the night Mr Trump admitted the call was 'testy'. The biggest controversy came from comments Mr Trump and Mr Turnbull made before reporters about healthcare.

Australians 'have better health care than we do', Mr Trump, who scored a victory in the House of Representatives on Thursday to advance a bill to repeal Obamacare, told Mr Turnbull.

The comment and video of Mr Trump's comment has been repeatedly played on US cable TV news networks and sparked debate. Mr Trump's Republican Party is staunchly opposed to Australian government-funded universal healthcare systems.

US Democratic Senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders laughed when he heard Mr Trump's Australian comment. 'Thank you Mr Trump for admitting that universal health care is the better way to go,' Mr Sanders tweeted. Mr Turnbull would only offer limited details about his bilateral meeting with Mr Trump, but said they did talk about immigration.

Mr Trump came to power vowing to halt illegal immigrants entering the US and forcing refugees to undergo extreme vetting.

Australia has had success in stemming the flow of refugees, but Mr Turnbull, asked if it was discussed with Mr Trump, said 'we don't ever presume to advise or counsel other countries on how they should manage their affairs'.

Mr Turnbull wrapped his two-day visit with a breakfast meeting with 20 chief executives including News Corp's Robert Thomson, Blackstone's Stephen Schwarzman, Alcoa chief executive Roy Harvey and Morgan Stanley chief executive chairman James Gorman.

Golfer Greg Norman, chairman and chief executive of Shark Industries, and Bloomberg founder Michael Bloomberg also attended.



Three generations of our family visited Malta!

by Incilay Golden (Kitzingen, Germany)
My husband and I in Gozo

I am Turkish, my family is from Istanbul. First time we came to Malta was in 1953.

When Malta was the headquarters of Southern Nato Command, my father was sent to Malta on duty. We all flew to Malta from Istanbul. I flew to Malta with my mother and my sister who was 2 years old at the time. I was almost 7 years old, my mother registered me to school. My mother chose **Sacred Heart School** since it had dormitories. She figured that once I was immersed into an English speaking school, day and night, I would pick the language up

immediately. I did not speak a single word of English! I was too young to start school in Turkey, thus I started primary school in Malta. My mother was right. I learned to speak, read and write in English before I learned to read, write in Turkish! **We stayed for 3 years in Malta.** By the time we left, all of us were fluent in English. We learned some Maltese too.

When we returned to Turkey, **I was homesick for Malta for a long, long time.** I remembered my friends, my school, my neighborhood with longing. The clear ocean, the smell of thyme fields, the poppy gardens on the hill walking to Valletta. I remembered picnics in the orange grove with my family. I remembered the artichokes that the nuns prepared for us at school. I remembered my father's friends who flew model airplanes. I remembered the soccer games we attended. I remembered the beautiful tile floors of our home. I remembered the church bells, right behind our home. I remembered the processions. I remembered the lovely Easter eggs in the display windows in Valletta. We sat at the coffee house outside, had ice-coffee by Queen Victoria's statue.

I remembered chasing the pigeons. I remembered getting our first potato-chips, with a small packet of salt included inside. **I remembered and spoke about it for years and years to come.** It took me three decades to go back to Malta. During this time I moved to Germany, married an American teacher, had three daughters and started working at the American school. I spoke often about taking a trip to Malta. **Finally after 37 years,** my husband and I and a group of friends from school, booked a trip to Malta. I visited every place I remembered: starting from my Sacred Heart school and our home in Guardamangia Hill. We even found neighbors that remembered us from 1953!

We visited my father's former work place in Valletta. We went to the cake shop by Queen Victoria's statue. We visited the botanical gardens and took a boat trip to Gozo. It was all as I remembered it. **Beautiful blue sky, clear blue ocean, sun.** For a long time I thought that I had over-imagined all the wonderful things about Malta. It was all as wonderful as I remembered it. My husband enjoyed himself and my friends did too. Once they returned to Germany, they recommended it to their friends, and many more of our friends came on their own to visit Malta. I was so happy to go back, that **I decided to surprise my sister with a trip to Malta.** She was very happy to return to Malta once again, after 55 years! We took in all the sights as well as visiting our old home and neighborhood. We had a wonderful time!

A few years later, my husband and I visited Malta again with a group of friends from school. They enjoyed it as much as we did. Our trips to Malta were so enjoyable that we decided to visit Malta once again a few years ago, **this time with our adult daughter.** We took her to all of our favorite places. She loved it so much, when she returned to Germany, she started to talk about getting a job and moving to Malta! My mother, my sister and I, my daughter, **three generations of my family love Malta** and love visiting Malta. When I am in Malta, **it is like coming home.** I do not feel like a tourist here. Malta is like visiting family. I feel at home.

Maltese Cuisine: Rabbit liver pâté

Chicken liver pâté is a firm favourite when serving starters. The Preca sisters put a Maltese touch on this recipe by using rabbit livers in the place of chicken livers. Serve in individual ramekins for a perfect dinner party starter.



Ingredients

- 200g rabbit liver, trimmed and cut into chunks
 - Knob unsalted butter, more to top
 - 1 small onion, very finely diced
 - 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
 - ½ tsp fresh thyme, very finely chopped
 - 1 tsp parsley, finely chopped
 - Generous splash Fino sherry
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Melt the butter in a small pan until bubbling.
2. Add the onion and garlic and fry gently for 5 mins until soft and translucent.
3. Add the liver and cook for 2 mins before adding the sherry, parsley, thyme, salt and pepper and stir for 1 min, then remove from the heat and leave for 2 mins.
4. Place in a food processor and blend for a few minutes until the pâté is smooth.
5. Leave to cool for 5 mins, spoon into a ramekin and smooth out.
6. Melt 2-3 tbsp unsalted butter in a saucepan and pour over the pâté to form a protective skin.
7. Leave in the fridge for a few hours to develop in flavour and to firm up.
8. And serve with toasted bread.

This recipe first appeared on Gourmet Today TV, aired on TVM on 1 April, 2017.

Home Affairs Minister launches the Disciplinary Corps Academy strategy



Home Affairs Minister Carmelo Abela has launched the disciplinary corps academy strategy, "based on education and professional training." He said that this strategy is based on the training and education of all the disciplinary corps, and should result in a higher quality of protection for society.

The content of the strategic plan, he said, was developed through consultation with members of all four disciplinary corps, and through international bench-marking with security and enforcement institutions in a number of countries including Australia, Canada, Ireland, the USA and the UK.

The minister spoke of the importance of international networks, and mentioned the Erasmus plus programme, and said that the Academy is in a position to offer members of the Disciplinary Corps courses and internship programmes. The Academy, he said, has a master plan for its campus in Siggiewi, that will be developed in over the coming months, to conform with international guidelines of educational buildings.

He also said that talks between the Academy and MCAST for a new foundation course to be offered are now in an advanced stage. The course would be a year-long, and will be for those youths who want to join the Disciplinary Corps however do not have the required academic requirements.

The minister also spoke about new programmes which are ongoing. He announced a training course for the police, regarding management of entertainment zones. He said that the first group of 22 officers began the course.



The Time of Our Lives

by David Mamo (Sydney, Australia)
Comino

As the son of Maltese immigrants to Australia in the 1950's I had always been told what a wonderfully diverse and interesting place Malta was, with **thousands of years of history, ancient ruins, beautiful beaches and a wonderful climate.** The **friendly people** guaranteed to make all tourists, especially the ones returning home to the country of birth of their parents, very welcome. And so I travelled with my wife, a fifth generation Australian and two sons, for not only an adventure but a journey back to my roots and a chance to show my boys where our family had come from. **I am happy to say it was all true!** From the **Grand Harbour** to the **Prehistoric temples**, to the **Norman architecture** and **Grand Masters' Palace**, the country oozes history. If that is not enough, then the **wealth of museums** and the ancient cities of **Valletta, Mdina** and **Victoria** will surely impress. Perhaps **beautiful churches** and Catholic history are more your style? The elaborate architecture and frescos and cathedrals are sure to impress as will the catacombs and almost daily **religious festas** in the summer.

Did I mention the weather? It can be summed up in one word ... GREAT! **Warm and sunny days are the norm** with little or no rain and only light clothing needed when we were there in the summer and autumn. The water temperature was also a treat. The warm sea water always took the sting out of a dip in the beautifully clean sea. I also had a lot of fun visiting the government offices and many of the local parish churches where I was able to seek the help of locals and parish priests in tracing back my ancestral roots. I got back as far as the 16th century on both my mother and father's side and hope to learn even more details on my next visit.

The sample of local transport was also interesting. Riding on an assortment of buses with all the Catholic icons on display made one feel safe with Jesus, Mary and Joseph as well as a variety of saints looking over you. Other modes of transport included boat and ferry rides as well as inexpensive car hire and you could always have **a ride on the Karozzin** (or horse drawn carriage) for something completely different.

If none of that is of interest, then don't fear. We loved our daily walks along the **Sliema waterfront**, especially at night where the city lights, safe atmosphere and the buzz of other tourists from all over the world added to the whole experience. I know what you are thinking. Sounds interesting but where is the fun?

Well for me, it's the island life with the spectacular Mediterranean Sea within easy access of literally everywhere. This means swimming in the crystal blue waters of places like the **Blue Grotto, Ghar Lapsi**, the **Sliema sea front, St Georges Bay** and the sandy beaches of **Armier, Paradise Bay, Golden Sands, Mellieha Bay** and **Ghajn Tuffieha** ... this makes me want to go back again and again!

The afternoon that we spent in the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk** soaking up the atmosphere and sampling all the seafood delights on offer was another highlight. Don't fear however if you are not too adventurous with your food as the cosmopolitan nature of the island means that food from the four corners of the world is on offer and you can even pick up some McDonalds, KFC or Hungry Jacks. I preferred to stick with the **Lampuki, pastizzi, timpana** and "**fenek**" or rabbit in red wine sauce as my culinary experience. Arguably though, we saved the best for last. Our day trip by boat to the **island of Comino** for a day of swimming, sun bathing and pretending to be rich, swimming among million dollar yachts was heaven! So if you are looking for history, culture, great weather, the beauty of the sea and a people that make you feel at home, then **Malta is the place to go!** Now I know what my parents were talking about when they said that everything you would ever want in a holiday destination was available in Malta and all within a tiny, easy to get around island that allowed you to do it all.

FLORIANA'S DARKEST DAY – WW2

Mark Anthony Vella looks into the bombing of Floriana on April 28, 1942, 75 years ago today

During World War II, Floriana's location, being adjacent to Marsa and the Grand Harbour, made the Germans suspect the locality was used for storage, and that the parish church was of military importance. A man who served at Lintorn Barracks, Joseph Sciberras, recalls the regiment's vehicles parked around the Granaries that were cordoned with barbed wire.



Barbed wire cordoned Granaries Square while residents rummaged the ruins. The portico of the church supported by the colonnade were gone as were statues in the niches. The main door and all the woodwork were shattered.

The Floriana District Committee had anticipated an onslaught on Floriana due to the high concentration of military vehicles in the area. On February 13, 1942, the Committee wrote to the Governor requesting: "I humbly suggest that the vehicles be parked in the neighbouring public gardens and be thus better camouflaged and protected than if left in the present localities."

This plea fell on deaf ears and a further appeal was made on April 6, claiming that "several bombs had fallen in the area and this could only be attributed to the concentration of military vehicles in Floriana. The committee was of the opinion this was tantamount to the writing on the wall".

Just before 8am on Tuesday, April 28, some 43 Ju88s followed by 20 Ju87 raided the harbour area. They were met with a mere opposition of three Spitfires and four Hurricanes. Three of the Stukas peeled away from the last formation and dived low over the Granaries aiming their bombs squarely at the parish church of St Publius. Within seconds, the bombs smashed through the roof of the sacred temple enshrouding it in clouds of dust. The dust settled to reveal a calamitous landscape, worse still, the crypt had collapsed, killing 13 people and seriously injuring another five.

With storage depots being on the April hit list, the committee could not have been more accurate in its predictions and the following morning Berlin Radio confirmed their worst fears had been legitimate. The radio declared: "The cathedral, which was used as a storage depot, has been destroyed."

With both St Publius and the Capucchins' church in ruins, Sarria church was the only remaining alternative and promptly started functioning as a provisional parish church.

The statue of St Publius was recovered fairly intact from the debris and was taken to Naxxar parish for safekeeping. In 1944, Floriana was to celebrate its centenary as a parish. However, the statue was not carried in procession before April 22, 1945. The centenary celebrations were postponed by a year while construction on the main nave and a wall between the pillars supporting the roof was completed on December 10, 1944. It took 10 years for the church to be rebuilt to its former glory.

Undaunted by the events, the Floriana District Committee met on June 1, 1942, to discuss the repair of St Publius church – a topic which was to remain on the agenda for several years. However, by September 10, 1942, works on the repair of the southern flank of the church had been undertaken and that Christmas, six-year-old Joe Coleiro Tonna delivered the traditional Christmas sermon in the restored section.

The extent of damage

Both the war damage commission and the police drew up reports calculating the extent of damages to the church and the surroundings. The police reported nine* persons killed and six injured while two persons were missing during raid number 2,208 which lasted from 7.55am to 9.14am on April 28, 1942.

Bombs had not only demolished the dome and crypt of St Publius church but a number of others had exploded on the Granaries, partly demolishing houses in St Publius Street, while buildings in St Anne's, St Thomas Street, the government Elementary School, Strait Street, Gunlayer Street and Capuccin Street

were destroyed. Other bombs had exploded at Sarria Road, The Mall, National Road and in Fosse Square, also destroying a fire engine.

The War Commission concluded: "This magnificent church which, facing Valletta capital stands majestically in front of the Floriana Granaries, forms with its vast bulk, its imposing portico of Corinthian columns, broad pediment and towering spires, a landmark of strength and beauty, symbolical at once of the devotedness of the Floriana parish and of the deep, undying faith of the whole population of these islands.



Capuchins Street after the bombing.

"This church has sustained extensive damage. The barrel vault surmounting the nave has suffered distortion by blast. A part of the vault lying above the choir has collapsed. The nave pilasters are slightly damaged. The organ loft is in part demolished. In the right-hand transept the altar is destroyed, while splinter holes have very seriously damaged pilasters, shell, barrel vault, arches and walls in the same. In the left-hand transept, the altar is partly destroyed, while other parts of the transept have been affected by blast. The passages leading from the aisles to the choir and sacristy have sustained blast damage. The double aisles at each side embellished and gave light to each of the aisles have been destroyed.

"These domes have, in falling, caused damage to the underlying church floor. Most of the altars in the side chapels have suffered blast damage in varying degree. The paintings above these altars are also damaged. This is the case also of the two spires whose highly decorative stonework has in great part been damaged by the blast. The woodwork of the façade such as that of the main doors and windows, constituting a not unimportant architectural feature of the decorative scheme of this great church, has suffered almost total destruction.

"Nearly the whole of the church woodwork is either destroyed or seriously damaged. Other parts of the church such as the sacristy, consisting of a number of rooms on the ground and first floor, and a number of corridors and spaces within the church building have been damaged by the blast, the damage affecting walls, roofs, woodwork and glass. The passage leading from St Publius Street is slightly damaged by blast. The crypt roof has slightly collapsed due to bomb hits and to the crushing of debris from the overlying church dome.

"One half of the dome, including the lantern, has collapsed. The underlying drum has been very seriously damaged. The main pillars supporting the dome arches and the four pendentives have been seriously damaged by splinter holes. All paintings on drum and pendentives are damaged. The walls and pilasters of the choir, as also all sculptured woodwork and paintings in this part of the church, have suffered damage by the blast.

"The major part of the pediment and of the peristyle roof and entablature, as also one of the isolated columns supporting the pediment, have collapsed. The statue symbolising faith at the apex of the pediment, as well as all other statues in the niches within the porch, have been either destroyed or damaged. The capitals and shafts of the Corinthian columns and pilasters forming such a highly decorative feature of the façade, as well as most other decorative or plain features of the same, have suffered extensive damage from blast and splinters." *The death toll was to rise as more bodies were uncovered. The main altar in ruins above the bombed crypt.

Tragedy beneath the altar

Residents regularly slept overnight in crypts and shelters for protection from the night raids. These served as make-shift schools and were considered safe places due to the admeasurement of the overlying churches. However, as was the case in St Publius, the concentrated number of bombs brought down volumes of debris which burst deep into the crypt.

The raid of April 28 had occurred just as the 8am Mass was about to commence and together with the priest, the congregation scampered or sought refuge beneath the church. However, the majority had moved to the shelter proper which was interconnected to the crypt.

The effect of such heavy explosions in the immediate proximity of a shelter sent shockwaves through the passages, sucking out the air violently and then choking the helpless crowd with dust and the noxious smell of explosives. As the raid was over and people crawled out of the shelter, a crowd gathered in front of the devastated church.

It was all too obvious, not only was the house of God in ruins but friends and family were entombed deep within the crypt below the altar. Attempts by the authorities to calm the crowd were in vain as emotions took the upper hand and a chaotic situation unfolded, making work for the rescue teams and arduous task.

This was Floriana's darkest day.



Some of the victims of the bombing: (From left) Salvatore Morana, 68, Publius Xuereb, 34, Giuseppe Enriquez, 65 and Rev. Paul Portelli, 52.

Four-year-old is youngest candidate for London piano exams in Malta



Piano most popular instrument in this year's LCM exams with 263 students performing pieces at the Malta Society of Arts

The Malta Society of Arts (MSA) will be hosting its bi-annual practical music examinations with the London College of Music (LCM) over three weeks in May, with 249 music students sitting for exams in various Grades, while 14 students will be hoping to obtain their Diploma certificate. The lowest level

is called 'Pre-preparatory' and the youngest student sitting for this exam will be a four-year old boy who will be playing the piano – the oldest student will be 49 years old

. Three students (playing the clarinet, flute and trombone) will also sit for the prestigious Fellowship Diploma exam, which is the LCM's highest qualification. The most popular instrument is by far the piano with 180 students sitting for exams, followed by the drumkit with 25 students, and the clarinet and guitar with 15 students each. Other instruments are the violin, snare drum, saxophone, flute, double bass and trombone. For the first time ever, the session will include two students sitting for their timpani exam.

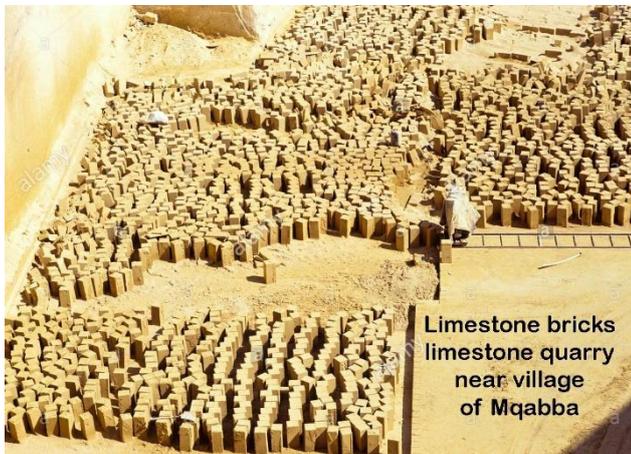
The MSA has been the representative of the LCM in Malta for the past 80 years and has built a strong relationship with this internationally-reputed college. For this summer session, the LCM examiner will be Greg Palmer. Palmer has worked extensively in UK theatre, composing, directing and arranging music for around 150 professional theatre productions over the last 30 years or so. In addition to his work as an educator, Greg has been a frequent contributor to higher and further education programmes including the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Rose Bruford College, Birkbeck College, University of London and Mountview Academy of Theatre Ar

The village of Mqabba - Malta



Mqabba is a typical old-charm laid-back village in the south of Malta. The village is famous for its two brilliant and rival firework factories that have even earned themselves international recognition. Archaeological remains, caves and catacombs may also be found here.

Situated in the South of Malta at the heart of a soft limestone area, the village of Mqabba is surrounded by quarries, supplying more than a quarter of island's supply of construction material with construction naturally being the town's main industry. But this is hardly the most interesting aspect of Mqabba.



Limestone bricks
limestone quarry
near village
of Mqabba

Mqabba retains the character of a typical Maltese village, with a peaceful stillness in its streets leading from its centrally located Parish Church dedicated to the Assumption. Its feast is held on the 15th of August together with another six villages celebrating the same feast, namely nearby Qrendi, Gudja and Ghaxaq, and also in Mosta, Attard and Victoria (Gozo). This partly led to the highly competitive streak of its Fireworks Factories which have become synonymous of Mqabba. Another feast is that of Our Lady of Lilies (Madonna tal-Gilju), celebrated in the third Sunday of June. If you

are in Malta in these periods or during the Malta International Fireworks Festival, join the thousands of locals, tourists and enthusiasts that flock to enjoy Mqabba's unique fireworks displays.

Mqabba's fireworks displays have made the town of Mqabba quite famous. Both the St Mary Fireworks Factory and The Lily Fireworks Factory have put themselves on the international stage. The St Mary Fireworks Factory has won the 1st edition of the Malta International Fireworks Festival in 2006 and the Caput Lucis Fireworks World Championships in 2007 in Rome as well as the IV National Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival in 2010. The Lily Fireworks Factory has won the II National Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival in 2008 and in June 2011 it established the Guinness World Record for the Largest Catherine wheel with a diameter of 32 metres.

But Mqabba has more to offer than just two very beautiful and interesting Band Clubs and fireworks factories. In fact Mqabba's archeological discoveries such as Bur Meghez cave and Mintna Catacombs, a complex measuring 139 cubic metres discovered in Diamond Jubilee Square in 1860, indicate that Mqabba has been important since Neolithic times. Extinct animals were also discovered in quarries at Ta` Kandja and Tax-Xantin.

Also worth visiting are several old chapels dedicated to St. Basil, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. John and St. Catherine of Alexandria.

“Hargja agrarja għall-familja kollha f’Had Dingli



“Had-Dingli – Hidma Agrarja u Tradizzjonijiet” Din hi l-14-il edizzjoni li se tkun qed tittella’ l-Ħadd li ġej f’Had-Dingli li tibda fit-8:00 ta’ filgħodu sal-17:00 ta’ wara nofsinhar. Attività li hi ffukata li tipromwovi t-tradizzjonijiet tal-Gżejjer Maltin b’mod speċjali dawk Dinglin. Din hi mera ta’ x’joffri r-raġal ta’ Ħad-Dingli fil-qasam kulturali, agrikolu, gastronomiku tradizzjonali u l-aspetti ekoloġiċi tal-madwar.

Din l-attività se sservi ta’ pjattaforma għal dak li r-raġal kapaċi joffri, b’esperjenza agrikola unika fejn il-viżitaturi jistgħu josservaw u jieħdu sehem fit-tradizzjonijiet agrikoli li, sfortunatment, qed jispiċċaw, u li posthom qiegħed jittieħed minn diversi żviluppi teknoloġiċi. Din hija attività li ta’ kull sena tkun ta’ success. Fil-fatt, is-sena l-oħra attendew iktar minn għaxart elef ruħ, fosthom anke turisti.

Il-viżitaturi se jkollhom l-opportunità li jduqu l-inbid lokali. Il-prodott agrikolu lokali se jkun eżebit, u dawk kollha li se jattendu se jkunu jistgħu jixtruh ukoll. Se jkun hemm diversi shows u attrazzjonijiet li jinkludu anke suq artigjanali u ikel tradizzjonali. L-ikbar attrazzjoni tibqa’ ir-replika tal-karrettun armat bil-ħaxix u frott li se jkun qed jikser rekord lokali.

Se jkun hemm ukoll żona għat-tfal, petting section, kif ukoll kompetizzjonijiet tan-nagħaġ u l-mogħoż, falkunerija, u diversi wirjiet. Se jkun hemm eżibizzjoni tal-għodod antiki li kienu jintużaw fir-raba’ u fil-kċina flimkien mal-mejda tradizzjonali Maltija, il-viżitaturi jistgħu jesperjenzaw kif jinħalbu n-nagħaġ u l-mogħoż, u kif isir il-ġiżż. Il-ħalib imbagħad jintuża sabiex issir l-irkotta fuq il-post, kif ukoll biex isir ġelat magħmul speċifikament għall-dawk li ma jabilx magħhom il-lattożju.

Se jkunu qed jiġu organizzati zjarat gwidati madwar il-ġonna tal-Buskett kif ukoll għall-Winery fejn minbarra li se jkun qed jittella’ workshop għad-dilettanti tal-inbid, se ssir ukoll kompetizzjoni tal-inbid. Workshops oħra interessanti jinkludu kif isir l-insiġ, it-tajra tradizzjonali, il-liedna, għana u mużika tradizzjonali. Waqt din l-attività se jkun hemm ukoll park and ride miċ-ċentru tar-raġal ta’ Ħad-Dingli għall-Buskett. Għaldaqstant il-parking m’għandux ikun problema.

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IL-LAQGĦA LI TMISS SE TKUN IL-ĠIMGĦA, 26 TA’ MEJJU, 2017, 7.30 PM Il-laqgħa li tmiss, b’has-soltu, se tkun l-aħħar Ġimgħa tax-xahar, jiġifieri nhar il-Ġimgħa, 26 ta’ Mejj, 2017, fiċ-Ċentru Malti ta’ Parkville, fis-7.30 pm. Il-membri kollha mistiedna li jgħibu xi xogħol biex jinqara f’din il-lejla. Jekk jogħġbokom ippruvaw li tkunu hemm fil-ħin. Nixtiequ naraw aktar membri jattendu għal dawn il-laqgħat, għalhekk ħajru lill-membri tal-familja u lil ħbiebkom biex jiġu u jsiru membri tal-Grupp tagħna



Champions

Hibernians celebrate 12th league in style and swagger

TARXIEN RAINBOWS- 1

HIBERNIANS - 6

Tarxien R: A. Cassar, M. Brincat, T. Caruana, A. Azzopardi, D. Micallef, B. Barbara (A. Nilsson), S. Prendes, D. Zerafa (K. Borg), A. Alves (L. Caruana), K. Zammit, S. Borg

Hibernians: A. Hogg (R. Briffa), R. Soares, J. Bezzina (G. Ribeiro), D. Vella, J. Lima, M. Dias, C. Failla, B. Kristensen, Jorginho (M. Moore), J. Degabriele, A. Agius



Hibernians celebrated their 12th League title win at the sun-drenched Ta' Qali National Stadium yesterday, with black and white streamers and banners fluttering down as the stadium's main stand erupted in joyous raptures when captain Clayton Failla was handed the winners' trophy.

They had just thrashed neighbours Tarxien Rainbows 6-1 with a sparkling display, in the last match of the BoV Premer League season.

The new champions might have not been the bookmakers' favourites this season but, mostly trailing behind leaders Balzan, snatched the opportunity, when the latter wilted, to come from behind and win the championship on the penultimate day.

The shrewdness and experience in this ageing Hibernians side might have won over their scintillating slick football this time. Hibernians have been by far a weaker team than that that claimed the title two seasons ago, lacking the relentless consistency that champions usually muster and lost six times in this campaign.

This title win, celebrated with such gusto before and after yesterday's final match, was a triumph of some solid collective effort – a delicious blend of youthful energy and canny older heads. This time round, when Mark Miller joined as coach at the start of the season in his second stint, the emphasis was more on group ethics.

Celebrating Nurses



International Nurses Day, 12 May 2017

The Department of Nursing of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta, is organising a seminar on International Nurses Day, to celebrate the essential contribution that nurses

provide through their diverse roles. This event is being held on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth (1820-1910), and aims to acclaim nurses' vital contribution to the health of Maltese society, while empowering nurses to discover their leadership potential. The seminar will be held on Friday 12 May at 16:30 at the South Auditorium, Faculty of Health Science.

The seminar is being held under the auspices of the President of the Republic, H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, who will be welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Angela Xuereb.

The theme for this year 'Nurses: A voice to lead' has been chosen by the International Council of Nurses and will be addressed through a discussion of the nurse as a carer, as an educator, and as an advocate for the patients and their loved ones. The three sub themes to be discussed are: Leading as an individual, Leading as a professional, and Leading as a member of the multi-disciplinary team.

This seminar gives recognition to the nurses' work which often goes unseen. Therefore, all current and retired nurses, as well as student nurses, and all nursing Bodies are invited to attend.

A moment of silence will be held at the start of the seminar to commemorate Professor Donia Baldacchino who passed away recently, and whose contribution to nurse education and innovative research on spiritual care will not be forgotten.

Dr Catherine Sharples, Education Liaison Nurse at Mater Dei Hospital, will give a short presentation on the history of nursing with particular reference to the leadership role. A specially produced video presentation will then highlight the diversity and impact of a variety of nursing roles. The ensuing discussion will be chaired by Ms Amy Camilleri Zahra. The Panel will be made up of Ms Janet Micallef, Mr Kurt Cassar, Ms Maria Cutajar, Mr Vince Saliba, Ms Grace Jaccarini, Dr Victoria Sultana and Dr Josef Trapani. Dr Roberta Sammut, Head of Department of Nursing at the Faculty of Health Sciences will conclude the meeting with a summary of the main points raised

Comino loses one of its four residents

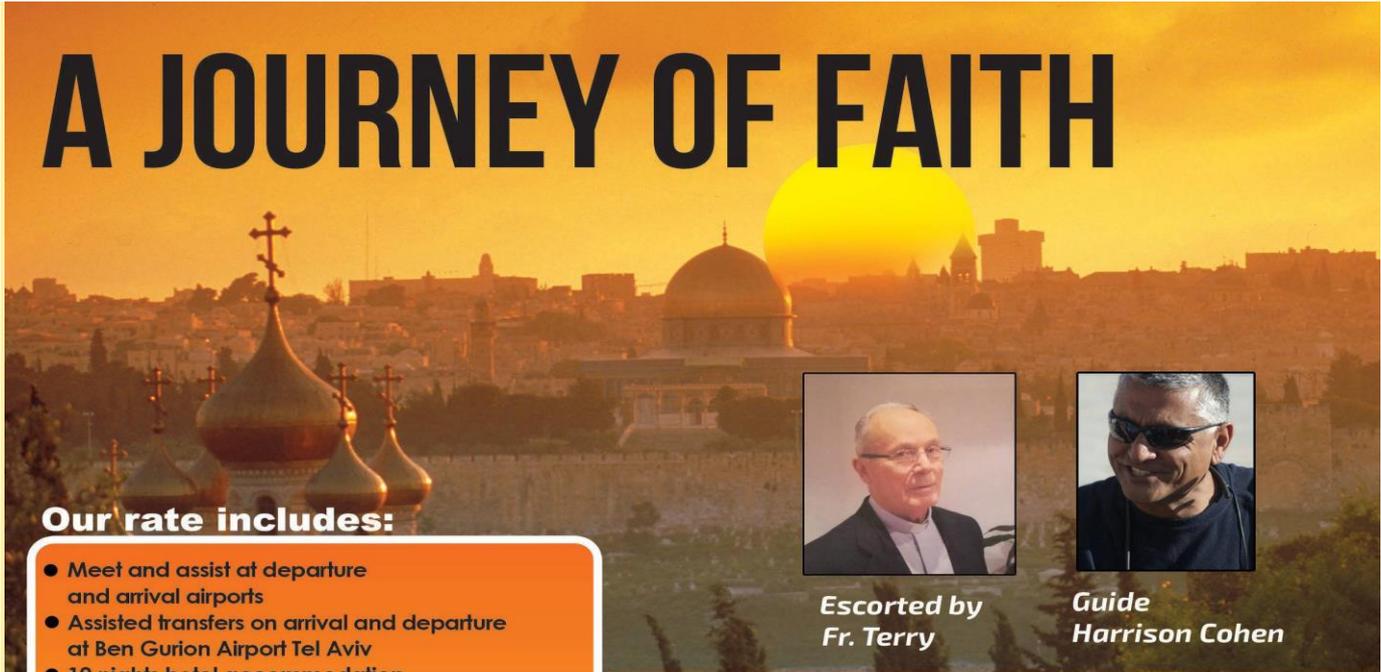


She lived on the island all her life and would never dream of leaving

Comino lost 90-year-old Maria Said today, one of the four remaining residents who lived on the island. The news was announced on the Facebook page *Festa ta' Kemmu* Maria lived in Comino all her life and never dreamt of leaving. She had told the *Times of Malta* there was a time when the community on Comino numbered 80 people and included some people who had come to till the land and live there from Sicily, where times were tough. "I recall when we even had no electricity and no refrigerators. When my father shot a lot of turtle doves we used to lower them in the well to keep them cool so that they would last a little longer and we could eat them over a couple of days." Life was hard and there were years when the fields did not yield enough to feed all the hungry mouths. But I think we were happier, even though we had less," she said.

She had also recalled seeing quails coming in flying low over the sea and her father would send her to fetch his gun from home. "I used to be afraid of the gun but always fetched it for him when he asked. It was a means of getting us food.

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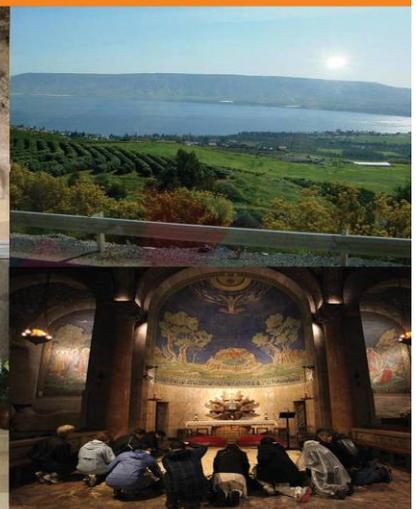
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Submitted by Herbert Portanier - tour being escorted by Fr. Tarciso Micallef, MSSP.



Fil- Hlewwa ta' Mejjju

*Fil-hlewwa ta' Mejjju,
Omm tagħna Marija
O kemm idoqq hlejjju dak ismek sabiħ
Kemm toħroġ qawwiya
Dil-kelma minn qalbna
Bit-tama li talbna jagħtik l-akbar ġieħ.*

*Rit: Int l-ghaxxa tas-sema
Ix-xemx tal-ħolqien
Int l-omm ta' min ħalqek
Bik mimli kull żmien.*

*Jekk tiftaħ fil-ġonna il-warda Maltija
Tfakkarna o Madonna fil-lewn ta' ħaddejġ
Jekk tidħak id-dija tal-kwiekeb irżina
Tfakkarna o ħanina fid-dawl ta' għajnejġ. Rit:.....*

*Minn dejjem bint Alla, nadifa mill-ħitja
Infrixt bħal qawsalla fuq ras il-bnedmin
Int ftaħt o Marija l-għejun ta' kull ħniena
Fuq l-aħwa ħosbiena, fuq l-aħwa ħatjin. Rit:.....*

*Għalhekk ja sultana tal-ħlewwa Marija
Int biss tama tagħna, int qawwa tar-ruħ
Bil-grazzja mimlija kull waqt insellmulek
Bil-ħrara ngħajtulek fis-siegha tad-dmugħ Rit:.....*

Dun Karm Psaila & Ġ. Caruana



Maltese Historical Association (Australia) Incorporated Għaqda Storika Maltija (Awstralja) Inkorporata

Anyone interested in Maltese history and culture may apply to become a member by completing an application form which requires committee approval. The membership rate is \$10.00 for singles or \$15.00 for a family. For more information about membership and association events, contact the Secretary, Charles Gatt, by email to: secretary@mha.org.au or by phone on 0425 708 830.

Newsletter

The Maltese Historical Association publishes a monthly newsletter - **MERHBA**. Members' subscription to the newsletter is included in the membership fee. A complimentary copy of the newsletter is also emailed to The Maltese eNewsletter on **Website:** <http://www.mha.org.au/>



ABOUT MARIA GALEA

To say that Maria loves art is probably an understatement. Born into a family whose business primarily concerns art and its framing, she was exposed from an early age to a diverse range of styles

and imagery. This early exposure was followed up by art courses abroad and local tuition under Malta's premier ceramist Gabriel Caruana. An artist herself, Maria has successfully received internationally exposure from an early stage such as being chosen to exhibit at New York's Art Expo at the age of 23, where her journey as an international artist began.

Fully aware of how difficult it is for artists to produce valid art and simultaneously promote it, Maria has translated her passion for art and keen business eye into promotion of a clutch of finest contemporary artists. In March 2016 she started managing her own Marie5 Gallery based in Malta which quickly followed up by a representation of six local artists in New York. All this while still trying to pursue her own distinctive artistic style as an artist. She recently studied at the prestigious Sotheby's Institute of Art in London which has given her the opportunity to work as a dealer with exclusive galleries and customers.

'Artists fuel my passion for my work giving me the ability and energy to do more each day. My biggest reward is seeing their work in various places and collections around the world, thus increasing their recognition and status. I have been asked on various occasions if I consider myself to be more of an art dealer or an artist.'

Contemporary abstract artist Maria Galea, known for supporting Maltese artists both in Malta and abroad, has just returned from what she describes as an incredible experience in India where she had an artist residency as part of a programme by a new gallery called Easel Stories in Noida, Delhi.

Galea started exhibiting her work internationally from the age of 23. <http://www.mgaleaarts.com/>



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