



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA

Contact: honconsul@live.com.au



TRADITIONAL MALTESE FESTIVAL L-IMNARJA

28 - 29 JUNE

Buskett Gardens - Dingli



Ghana u Zfin
Wirja tal-Bhejjem
Ikel Tradizzjonali
Wirja Agrikola
Fenkata u Nbid

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Happy
reading



Harvest Festival of L-Imnarja One of the Oldest Feasts in Malta

Malta and Gozo today celebrate the feast of St Peter and St Paul more commonly known as L-Imnarja, a traditional feast since the time of the Knights of St John which is still marked by agricultural fairs, livestock competitions, ghana (folk music), traditional fenkata (rabbit recipes) and local wine drinking until the early hours of the morning in Buskett.



St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina.

The word Mnarja is derived from 'Luminarja' meaning lights, and refers to bonfires around the island. Small torches also used to be lit near the Cathedral and Mdina bastions. The feast was so popular in olden times that a man had to promise his wife-to-be and her parents on the eve of marriage that he would take his bride to Buskett for the next Imnarja. Until the 17th century, the feast was celebrated by the locals with a pilgrimage to the crypt which lies underneath the Parish Church of Rabat. A procession would pass through Rabat towards the



L-Imnarja is linked to harvests and farming as the majority of Maltese during the 16th, 17th and 18th century were farmers, and Rabat was the hub of farming activities. Many Maltese used to flock to Rabat on the eve of the feast, on foot, on horse and mule driven carts. A crowd would gather at Saqqaja, the top of the hill in Rabat, and recite the rosary and other prayers. Later they would join the Bishop and his Cathedral Chapter in the procession towards Mdina. Accompanying the procession one would also find the daqqaja and the folklore singers wearing priestly robes.

During the British reign, under Governor Sir W. Reid in 1854, the Agricultural Society took over the National Farmers' exhibition, which gathered prime livestock, top agricultural produce and Maltese honey under a marquee in Buskett Gardens. It was prohibited to feast at Buskett during the night along the rule of the knights. The agricultural show in Buskett brought about great changes. Many Maltese used to go to see the exhibition and spend the day at Buskett, eating rabbit and singing away until the early hours of the morning.

The Agricultural Society changed the date of the show to the 28 of June so that on Mnarja the Governor, first, and later the President of the Republic, could go and present trophies awarded for the best exhibits. Animal racing used to be held at Saqqaja Hill and going up the incline on the left one can still see the Loggia tal-Palji the balcony where the country leaders used to sit and where Palji were awarded to winners. The palji (prize-flags) were brightly coloured and the winners would take these to their respective villages.

While the feast is still traditionally celebrated at Buskett and rural villages in Gozo, many opt for a barbeque with family and friends at beaches or simply on house roofs as school children break for summer. Once again, L-Imnarja activities draw to an end this evening following horse and animal racing at Saqqaja Hill. The feast of St Peter and St Paul is also celebrated in Nadur Gozo.



A Global Film Project, with Local Flavour

June 13, 2017 - Some of you may have been aware, but I am willing to bet most are still in the dark about a project that the Maltese Club is actively taking part in this coming fall. Last September the club was approached by Charlie Cauchi, a filmmaker from England and Malta. Charlie is the lead artist and director of Latitude 36 – a transmedia project supported by the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Malta Film Commission. Charlie is putting together a

documentary film project on the Maltese immigration experience around the world. The project will form part of Malta's European Capital of Culture program in 2018. You can view more about Latitude 36 and the Valletta 2018 program by clicking this [LINK](#).

The project ultimately aims to showcase the wide variety of people and experiences that exist within the Maltese community in a global sense. How did we get here? Why did people stay? What are their thoughts on being Maltese in a different country? What has their experience been like? How do we connect with our Maltese culture?

For the past nine months, Mark Trzeciak and myself have been meeting with Charlie to help shape the scope of the project, apply for grants to fund the project, and generally assist in any way possible while also making sure to give the Maltese community in Detroit a clear voice in the project.

Now, it is your turn to help drive the project! For the project to be a success, we need your input. People willing to share their stories to an international audience. From Charlie herself, she says,

"I'm looking for 1st and 2nd generation Maltese to take part in this project. I'd love to hear your own personal stories, or those of your relatives, about migrating to the USA. I'm also interested in your relationship to Malta. I will be traveling with my cinematographer and am looking for people to interview.

Besides talking to you, the project also needs some material. I am looking for personal pictures, photographs, or home movies...ones that can tell us about your life in and outside of Malta. I am really looking forward to visiting Detroit!"

For some of you, this will sound like a repetitive task. As many of you are aware, Mark and I have worked for the past few years to slowly collect stories and photographs that highlight our community's history (and many of them have been added to this website...sorry...there is still a backlog of stories and photographs!). Charlie's project blends right into what we are attempting to do here, capture our community's history! We hope you find the time and energy to take part in this wonderful project.

If you are interested, there will be several opportunities to share your story! Being in London, Charlie has had several opportunities to document the Maltese-London story during events like those pictured below!

If, by chance, you are planning a trip to Malta this summer we can potentially arrange a meet-up with Charlie and her film crew while you are in Malta. Otherwise, Charlie and her crew will be coming to Detroit for the Festa tal-Vitorja in September. Though the dates aren't completely official yet, you can plan on the crew being in the Motor City from late August/early September through September 11th (Stay tuned for more finalized dates).

After the visit to Detroit, the crew will move on to Toronto and New York City for the rest of the month. If you know of family or friends in either of those two cities that would be interested in contributing to the project, please help us out and pass along their names and contact!

If you are interested in participating or would like to hear more about the project, you can email Charlie directly at contact@latitude36.org or you can visit www.latitude36.org and join them on Facebook.

You can also contact the Maltese Club directly to indicate your willingness to participate in the project. Our email address is mabsi.detroit@gmail.com or through our Facebook page. As the dates draw closer we will work with everyone to set up interview days and times.



Charlie Cauchi

Charlie Cauchi has been working on this current project for a year now and so far, has interviewed people in the UK where she is currently based. Cauchi splits her time between Malta and London as her family still resides in Malta. Her parents are Maltese and they emigrated to the UK in the 1970s, this personal history has become the driving force behind the current project. She ultimately decided that rather than have a very British-centric view of Maltese migration, it would be wonderful to meet with Maltese people in different parts of the world and that is why the project is now moving to other destinations over 2017.

Professionally, she has worked in the audio-visual industries in the Malta and the UK. She holds a BA and MA in Film Studies and is a doctoral candidate within the School of Languages, Linguistics, and Film at Queen Mary University of London.

Għad-Dell tal-Għajn tal-Ħasselin

Dan huwa l-isem li ngħata lil serata li l-Kunsill tal-Kultura fi ħdan il-Ministeru għal Għawdex ippreżenta nhar il-Ħamis fl-għaxija 8 ta' Gunju fit-8pm quddiem l-Għajn tal-Ħasselin hekk kif tkun



ser taqbad triqtek lejn il-bajja tax-Xlendi. Il-programm, li kien ippreżentat mill-Kav Joe M Attard, fetaħ billi s-sinjura Marita Buttigieg qrat il-poeżija tal-poeta Għawdxi Charles Bezzina, 'Mill-Ħajja li nixtieq – B'tifkira tal-Għajn tal-Ħasselin Fontana. Dritt wara, ilkantanta żagħżugħa Għawdxi mill-Fontana Francesca Sciberras kantat il-kanzunetta 'Kemm hu sabieħ' ta' Sammy Bartolo u l-kanzunetta 'Fejn tħobb il-Qalb' ta' Mike Spiteri waqt li kien akkumpanjata mill-pjanista Russa Sofia Narmania. Jiena qrajt imbagħad il-poeżija tal-Avukat Gorg Zammit 'F'Wied il-Lunzjata'.

Kien imiss imbagħad lit-tenur Malti Alan Sciberras li nterpreta żewġ kanzunetti Maltin oħra li kienu 'L-Aħħar Bidwi f'Wied il-Għasel' u 'Xemx' tal-grupp popolari Għawdxi The Tramps akkumpanjat dejjem mill-pjanista Russa. Fuq xewqa tal-Kumitat organizzattiv jiena ktibt u qrajt il-poeżija tiegħi 'Quddiem il-Għajn tal-Ħasselin' u wara s-Sopran Rosabelle Pavia akkumpanjata minn oħtha Marita Buttigieg kantat il-kanzunetta 'Marija ta' Wied il-Għajn' kif ukoll 'Festa'. Is-Serata li għaliha kienu preżenti għadd ta' Fontanin fosthom is-Sindku u l-Kappillan flimkien ma' għadd ta' mistednin oħra għalqet b'Re-enactment ta' tieg tipikament Għawdxi mill-Astra Folk Group taħt id-direzzjoni ta'

Charles Sacco waqt li kienu servuti drinks u helu li ssibhom waqt il-festa tat-tieg.

Jinghata bidu għal 'Victoria International Arts Festival'

Bi thejjija għall-festa popolari ta' San Gorg Martri li tilhaq il-qofol tagħha fil-belt Victoria l-Hadd 16 ta' Lulju, nhar it-Tlieta filgħaxija 6 ta' Gunju ngħata bidu għal dan il-Festival ta' mużika b'Kunċert mill-isbaħ fil-Knisja Bażilika ta' San Gorg Victoria bis- sehem tal-Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali, il-Kor Paudate Pueri taht id-direzzjoni tal-Kan Dun Gorg Frendo, u l-Kor University of Delaware Choir taht id-direzzjoni ta' Paul Head flimkien mas-Sopran Claire Debono, Paul Patinka (tenur), Ethan Udovich (tenur) ilkoll taht id-direzzjoni impekkabbli ta' Mro Joseph Vella. Kif kien mistenni fil-Knisja ma kienx hemm fejn taqa' labra u l-kompożizzjonijiet tas-Surmast Vella ntlagħhu ferm tajjeb anke mill-hafna barranin residenti li kienu preżenti. Il-Knisja mill-ġdid kienet imburgata bin-nies l-għada l-Erbgħa għall-kunċert li tat il-Cappella Musicale Pontificia 'Sistina' taht id-direzzjoni ta' Monsinjor Massimo Palombella li f'hin minnhom għadda l-bakketta lil Kan Dun Gorg Frendo (xi haġa li rari tigrì) biex jidderiegi silta mill-programm. Niesna jidher li saret tistenna dan il-Festival għaliex għat-tielet darba wara l-oħra, il-Ħamis 8 ta' Gunju reggħet imliet il-Bażilika biex tisma' x'kellu joffri l-Kor mill-Universita' ta' Delaware fl-Istati Uniti taht id-direzzjoni ta' Paul Head.

Bla dubju dawn il-kunċerti jibqgħu għaddejjin kuljum fit-8pm mhux biss fil-Bażilika ta' San Gorg imma wkoll f'lokalitajiet oħra tal-belt Victoria (ara programm stampat li jinkiseb mill-Knisja) u jilhq u l-qofol tagħhom bl-aħħar kunċert fil-Knisja Bażilika ta' San Gorg Martri bil-kunċert Orkestrali mill-Orkestra Filarmonika Nazzjonali (Nicolas Chatenet trumpet u Marcelline Agius leader tal-orkestra) taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Joseph Vella. Grazzi lil tant Sponsors li jagħmluha possibbli biex il-pubbliku jkun jista' jattendi bla ħlas; ċert li barra minn pajjiżna kunċerti bħal dawn ikunu bil-ħlas; u allura iblah min ma japprofittax ruħu u jmur igawdi dawn il-kunċerti li fihom il-protagonisti huma artisti ta' fama mondjali ġejjin minn partijiet differenti tal-globu! **Kav Joe M Attard**



We are Calypso Radio and we love what we do. Over the years Calypso Radio became an established name in Maltese households and businesses alike. Launched as a community station in 2004, and nationwide in 2005 Calypso Radio remains the nations favourite music station and aims at entertaining it's audience not just through music but also by offering a warm and homely feeling to it's listeners by it's cheerful line up of presenters!

Calypso Radio is Malta's only Retro Music Station giving it's priority to the massive decades of the 60's, 70's and the 80's playing the greats such as 'The Beatles', 'ABBA', 'BeeGees', 'Hot Chocolate', 'Lionel Richie', 'Rod Stewart', 'Tina Turner', 'Air Supply', 'Percy Sledge', 'Duran Duran', 'Madonna' and others... Italo Hits are certainly not absent, where an array of Italian music is played daily. Our music menu is never ending and this is the reason Calypso Radio remains Malta's favourite!

Calypso Radio gives the opportunity to it's listeners to request their favourite tracks, receiving an immense amount of texts daily, mainly selecting their favourite songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's... This has naturally made Calypso Radio the Nations Favourite radio station.

LISTEN: <http://www.liveonlineradio.net/malta/calypso-radio-101-8.htm>

Address Calypso Media Communications Ltd
28, New Street in Valletta Road - Luqa LQA 1559 Malta

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## The Queen to honour Gozitan & Maltese winners



**The Queen's Young Leaders Award will be presented to two exceptional young people from Gozo and Malta at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London at the end of the month.**

Her Majesty the Queen will present the Award to 22-year old Gozitan Eman Borg, in recognition of his work supporting the LGBTI+ community, and 25-year-old Vladyslava Kravchenko from Qawra, who has been acknowledged for her commitment to raising

awareness of disability sports.

Eman and Vladyslava will be representing Malta as they join winners from across the Commonwealth in the UK for a programme of inspiring meetings, networking opportunities and bespoke training and mentoring, all designed to help them to develop as leaders and work with ever greater impact to transform people's lives.

The Award celebrates inspiring young people from all over the Commonwealth who are dedicated to driving change in their communities and beyond.

Winners are selected from a competitive process where thousands of young people from all over the Commonwealth applied to be a Queen's Young Leader.

Eman Borg said: "I'm excited to win the Queen's Young Leaders Award and I hope that it will enable me to continue to give young people more voice and visibility."

The organisers said that the 2017 Queen's Young Leaders Award winners are working to support others, raise awareness and inspire change on a variety of issues from tackling bullying in schools, to preserving the environment, to promoting gender equality.

The winners will visit 10 Downing Street, as well as take part in masterclasses at the BBC World Service and the UK headquarters of global social media company Facebook, before receiving their Queen's Young Leaders Award at Buckingham Palace, which takes place on Thursday, the 29th of June.

They will also meet the Commonwealth Secretary-General, take part in workshops at the University of Cambridge, meet senior executives from some of the UK's leading organisations and visit projects that are changing the lives of vulnerable people in the UK.

The launch of the final ever search for the Queen's Young Leaders will conclude the programme.

The application process to become a Queen's Young Leader of 2018 opens at 9:00pm BST on Thursday, the 29th of June 2017, and this year is the last chance for young people to apply to become a Queen's Young Leader.

The program is looking for people aged between 18 and 29 who are dedicated to creating positive changes to the lives of people in Malta to join this important community of change-makers from across the Commonwealth.

"The Queen's Young Leaders of 2017 are doing truly remarkable work within their communities. Their actions are having a positive impact not only on those around them but also by setting in motion positive change that will last for generations to come," Dr Astrid Bonfield CBE, Chief Executive of The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust said.

Dr Bonfield explained that "the residential program is an opportunity for the 2017 Queen's Young Leaders to come together for the first time, to foster partnerships and share ideas about how they can work together as a group to improve people's lives all over the Commonwealth."

"We are delighted that these young people are being recognised for their life-changing work by Her Majesty The Queen and we hope that their time in the UK will inspire and enable them to pursue their work for others on an ever greater scale," she added.

Details about how to apply to become a Queen's Young Leader, together with information about the 2017 Award winners and Highly Commended runners up, is available at [www.queensyoungleaders.com](http://www.queensyoungleaders.com).



## Maltese place names that are associated with water resources

The Maltese people have historically and traditionally recognized the importance of water. Several place names have been named after water sources that exist on the Islands. Most of these words have been derived from the Semitic languages and are very old, whilst others have Latin origins.

Below are the definitions of the most common words that are associated with water.

**BIR** - "Bir" refers to a well. Places like Birzebbuga, Bir Miftuh, Bir id-Deheb all use this word.

**BAHRIJA** - Bahrija is derived from the word baharija, an Arabic word meaning oasis. It is located to the north of Rabat.

**FONTANA** - Literally meaning "fountain." This is of Latin origin.

**GHADIRA** - Literally means 'Lake'. However the Maltese Islands do not have any natural lakes and thus this place name can either signify a small pool like those of which are found at Ghallis (Ghadira s-Safra) and Kercem (Ghadira tas-Sarraflu) or a bay as that of Ghadira found at Mellieha

**GHAJN** - The word "ghajn" refers to a source of water that could be easily accessed by people. Historically "ghajn" were communal water sources whereby people used to abstract water for consumption purposes. Several place names across the Maltese Islands have this word in their names. e.g. Wied Il-Ghajn, Ghajn Tuffieha, Ghajnsielem. Often Ghajn refers to natural fresh water springs.

**ILMA** - Meaning literary water. Ghar Ilma is found near Victoria and Kercem in Gozo.

**MARSA** - "Marsa" means port. Various place names in the Maltese Islands have Marsa as part of their name generally followed by a direction of the wind rose indicating the location of the port e.g. Marsaxlokk, Marsascala, Marsalforn

**MISQA** - Misqa means "Watering place". Again, it is of Arabic origin.

**QATTARA** - "Qattara" comes from the word Qatra meaning a drop. Several areas on the islands are named Il-Qattara or just Qattara. One of the few existing permanent fresh water pools known as il-Qattara can be found in the San Lawrenz area.

**WIED** - "Wied" means a river valley. During the pluvial period many river valleys formed all over the Maltese Islands and drained to the sea. Today these are dry river valleys and occasional ones have temporary springs and water courses during the winter months. Very few have water all year through.



## MEMORIES.....

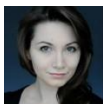
*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth delivering the speech at the State opening of Malta Parliament in 1967*

*At the Grandmaster's Place, Valletta, Malta*

*A very rare photo sent to us by C. Walsh (USA)*

## IF HYACINTH BUCKET WERE MALTESE

Writes Nicola Abela Garrett



In February 2016, the BBC had confirmed that *Keeping Up Appearances* has so far been the most popular overseas show for the broadcasting service; audiences relate to it because everyone knows a Hyacinth Bucket. And possibly, no other nation has an abundance of Hyacinths more than Malta does.



Imagine if we plucked Mrs Bouquet and her kin out of the Northern suburbs of the UK and planted her here on this isle...

Firstly, she'd reside in the respectable town of Attard in a house called *Cherry Blossom*, right on the cusp of Hal Balzan, making sure that everyone knows that Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca is her neighbour...

She'll probably make Richard drive back and forth in front of San Anton Palace, in order to bump into Her Excellency and invite her to one of her candlelight suppers. But then

again, she might just as well start getting competitive over their sense of style...

She'd also have a summer house in High Ridge, where she'd often host outdoors indoors luxury barbecues with finger buffet, but it would be nowhere near as grand as Violet's villa in Santa Maria Estates with her Mercedes, sauna and room for a pony.

She'd have a white slim-line telephone with automatic redial provided by Melita, whose representatives quake in the knees upon reaching her for customer support...

... especially if she's complaining about being mistaken for a Chinese takeaway.

She'd still be just as house proud, with her Royal Doulton with the hand-painted periwinkles bought from Palazzo Parisio. Although, we do suspect that like the upper-class of Malta, she'll make sure she gets herself a Philippina. And now, she'll be able to have a look through other people's washing on the roof, and if she comes across any plastic sofa covers, you know she'll be giving you this face of distaste:

Actually, she'll be giving that face to a number of things, such as *festi*, pastizzi, the buses, names like Xanaja and Shenizienne, people who vote Labour...

Onslow, Daisy and Rose would live in the South, and she'd be just as terrified to visit them. Also, Onslow's TV would have been bought from the *monti*.

She won't be very welcoming about Emmet's divorce, as she'd have probably voted against it. However, upon hearing that Emmet is a musical director, she'll be heading straight to the MADC to try out for their latest Shakespeare at San Anton Palace, reminding everyone that she's neighbours with Her Excellency. She'll be just as overbearing and interfering as many Maltese matriarchs...

... But Sheridan, whom she sent to St Aloysius or San Andrea from infancy, can still do no wrong in mummy's eyes, and he'll probably still be living with her till the age of 35.

Just like his British counterpart, the Maltese Richard would also work *mal-gvern*, but he's still forceful and executive in Hyacinth's eyes. Eve.com.au





Procession of St. Gregory in the past

## Ethnography: The Origin of St. Gregory's Procession at Zejtun, Malta

The first Wednesday after Easter Sunday is considered a holiday by many, particularly those living at iż-Żejtun and Marsaxlokk. This is the day when the feast of St Gregory is celebrated by many in these localities.

The feast is mainly a religious one, focus around a pilgrimage which up to some decades ago used to start at dawn from Mdina. However today, many flock to Marsaxlokk to spend a whole day playing tombola, listening to *Għana* and eating all sorts of food without knowing anything about the true meaning of this celebration.

But how did this feast originated? There are various theories shared by different historians about this. A number of such theories have been gathered by the historian Cannon Rev Joe Abela in his book *The Parish of Zejtun through the ages*.



Some suggested that it all started as a vow after the plague of the year 1519. Others thought that it originated as a thanksgiving when Malta was saved from a Turkish attack of 1452. There is also reference to a devastating thunderstorm which occurred in the year 1343. There are some who even said that it was Bishop Birando who started this annual pilgrimage when he walked barefooted all the way from Imdina to Zejtun. The oldest date of origin referred to it the year 1120,

when on Good Friday of that year the Arabs tried to take back the possession of the island.



The only historical document discovered so far about this procession is a decree which was issued by Bishop Cubelles in 1543 calling for an annual pilgrimage to be held on 12th March, feast of St. Gregory. This decree was registered in the Acts of the Curia's Notary Vincenzo Bonaventura de Bonetis on that same day. The call for this pilgrimage was aimed as a prayer to the Almighty God to bring peace among the Christian Powers of Europe and to enlighten the Pope to carry out the necessary reforms within the church. This was the time of the

Protestant Reformation which brought the worst crisis in the modern history of the Catholic Church.

The Maltese eNewsletter wishes all our Canadian readers a very happy...



CANADA 150

we  
**Canada**  
→ Day  
1 July 2017

## Pastizzi, Qaghaq tal-Ghasel and the occasional gossip ... in Canada

Malta Independent

Tucked away at the west end of The Junction, in Toronto, the bakery shop is extremely popular. Newspaper cuttings, photos and maps of Malta are lined on the wall. On a television screen, a live stream of the Grand Harbour is featured. People make their way in to buy pastizzi (cheesecakes), qaghaq tal-ghasel (honey rings) or to dip some krustini in their tea.



In the area known as Little Malta, local traditions have been kept alive – be it religious processions or the traditional figolla during Easter.

Charlie and Antoinette have almost become like trusted family members for the regular customers. Only a few weeks ago, the couple closed the shop for a day, because one of their daughters was getting married. The customers panicked, thinking it had shut down for good. The hub offers a source of comfort, especially for the elder generation.

"We know what they're going to order as soon as they walk in. They trust us with their stories. We've laughed at their jokes, but we've also cried with them. News of someone who's ill or has passed away travels fast, and a cloud of sadness can be felt amongst us," Antoinette says.



**The beginning** - Back in the 1920, hordes of Maltese immigrants made their way to Canada. In a basement situated at Dundas Street, in a place known as the Junction, Toronto, they started to meet up, sharing experiences from their home island, and gossiping about mutual acquaintances. It was there the Maltese community in Canada began. It was there the Maltese soccer club and the Maltese band club got together. In fact, over the years, the area became known as Little Malta.

Close by, two Maltese siblings opened up a coffee and pastizzi shop. In 1950s, a church run by Frangiskani was

built a few doors up.

Charlie Buttigieg moved to Canada in 1973. Five years later, he moved back to his hometown in Gozo, where he met his wife Antoinette. Shortly after they moved back to Canada, Charlie started helping out part time at the bakery shop.

During the late 70s, a recession hit Canada and many workers were laid off, including Charlie himself. At the same time, the siblings owning the shop were intending to sell the place. At that point, the married couple considered two options, moving back to Gozo, or buy the bakeshop. Initially, the couple's plan was to stay in Canada for five years, however thirty years on, they haven't looked back. And the bakeshop plays a determining factor. The shop offers a wide variety of Maltese tradition food, however pastizzi remain the sole favourite, and it is not only popular among the locals. Foreigners have come to love them, and go to the area specifically to try them out.

Besides the fresh product, the company sells a large number of frozen pastizzi. Customers come from all over Canada bearing large ice coolers to transport the food back to where they've come from. Some travel for hours to get to the shop. Some purchase up to 30 dozens of the product. Before 2001, the product was



also exported to the United States, however following the 9/11 attacks, the country placed a number of restrictions. Most foreigners used to refer to pastizzi as cheesecakes. But Charlie and Antoinette wanted to completely abolish the term in their shop. "People would come in asking for them, and we'd tell them we'd run out. They're let down for a second, before we proceed to ask if they mean pastizzi, in which case, we have plenty," Charlie says with a smile. Gradually, the Maltese term started being used. In Canada, people still purchase the local product to celebrate lifetime events – be it christening, weddings, or funeral. It is

always the first food item to run out.

**A taste of home** - Besides offering the traditional foods, Charlie makes an effort to create a home feeling for his Maltese customers, while creating the chance to boast about his home country with the foreigners. Streaming the live online webcam on screen, customers can see the view of Barrakka, or the Grand Harbour. Last April, along with thousands in Malta and Gozo, customers followed the inauguration of Marie Louise Coleiro Preca as president. During summer, they follow television programmes featuring the local festas.

"Some of the elderly get tears in their eyes, simply at a glimpse of their hometown," Antoinette says.

In the surrounding area, the Maltese community still engage themselves in local traditional rituals –the procession on the feasts of our Lady of Sorrows, Santa Marija and the Vittorja. In June, they celebrate Mnarja at a park close by.

A number of local prominent figures have visited The Malta Bake Shop. Guido DeMarco, Censu Tabone, Eddie Fenech Adami, Alfred Sant, Rizzo Naudi and Archbishop Paul Cremona have all been there. Musicians Benny and Tonia even wrote a song called The Malta Bake Shop in Toronto.

**Looking ahead** - When the couple took over the shop, they were still relatively young and bringing up three young children. From a young age, the children helped around the shop in the own little ways. Today the eldest, Josef is a neurologist leading his own clinic; Antoine is a music director, Holly a cake decorator and Ivy a Mezzo Soprano. But despite having their own profession, they are still very fond of their family's bake shop. They've also considering taking over the shop once their parents retire.

"We'd hate having to sell the shop once we retire. It is part of our family today. At the same time, we're so proud of what our children have managed to achieve, and we wouldn't want them to give it up for the business."

Asking them what it's like working with your spouse, they laugh. "We do have our little arguments, just like every other couple, and we do disagree on certain procedures. But today we both have our roles at the shop, and we try not to get into each other's way – as much as possible."

Considering the couple's love for their home country, I ask them whether they ever considered returning back home. "We have two homes. Malta will always remain our country, but Canada today means family to us – all our children were born and brought up here. Back in 1970s, we said we'd try living abroad for 5 years then head back. 30 years have passed, and we haven't looked back."

Besides Charlie and Antoinette, four employees work at the shop during weekdays. Over the weekends that number verges onto six or seven employees. Employees of different nationalities work at the shop – a Brazilian is in charge of the pastry. Another two have Maltese origins – one is half polish, the other half Syrian. Most have managed to learn a few basic Maltese words – at least enough to manage an order request in Maltese.



# World's longest chocolate train displayed in Brussels

Nov 20, 2012



Being from a small island has never prevented the Maltese from thinking big and this is what exactly happened today in Brussels when a Maltese chef, using

Belgian chocolate, set the world's record for the longest structure made in chocolate.

Within the framework of the Belgian Chocolate Week, Chef and ITS lecturer Andrew Farrugia displayed his latest work of art- a chocolate train. On Monday, this sculpture was recorded by the Guinness World Records as holding the record for being the longest chocolate structure in the world, measuring 34.5 meters in length.

The chocolate train was the highlight of the Belgian Chocolate Week, so much so that the Minister of Tourism for the Brussels region used this event to officially open the week's activities, which attracted press from all over the world.

Mr Farrugia worked closely with Malta's Ambassador in Belgium, HE Vanessa Frazier to secure sponsors for the event and for the logistics of his participation in this festival.

The train was manufactured in Malta using 1,285 kg of chocolate donated by Belgian chocolate manufacturer Belcolage. The train was transported overland the Brussels by Mr Kevin Attard of Customs and Freight Ltd and flights to and accommodation in Brussels for Mr Farrugia and his team were offered by Airmalta and Radisson Blu Royal. MTA also co-sponsored the event and used it as an occasion to promote Malta as a tourist destination.

Mr Farrugia also created a grand piano out of chocolate for which Roland, the renowned piano manufacturer donated an electric keyboard. During the inauguration of the event, which was held in the South Terminal of the Midi train station in Brussels, the life-size chocolate piano used by two pianists to perform classical and jazz pieces



**The world's longest chocolate structure on Guinness World Records, made by artist Andrew**

**Farrugia of Malta, is displayed in Brussels November 19, 2012. The chocolate train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 meters in total length and was prepared with 1285 kg of Belgian chocolate. (Xinhua/Wang Xiaojun**

I read your newsletter every time you send it. I read every article because they have so much information. I have been living in California since 1979, and visit Malta pretty often. When I read your articles, i'm reminded of the old days in Malta when our school teachers took us on field trips to the historical places. I had heard about the finding of the secret passages that were found at the San Gior church before I left Malta to come to the USA, but I had never heard the details that your article explained so well. Keep up the good work. Kind regards, Brian Ciappara

## ST. MARY'S CHAPEL – BIR MIFTUH, GUDJA – MALTA

The **Chapel of St Mary** (Maltese: *Kappella ta' Santa Marija*) is a medieval chapel located in Bir Miftuh, limits of Gudja, Malta. The Chapel of St Mary was built some time in the fifteenth-century, most probably in around 1430.



In 1436, the chapel was mentioned as one of the 12 existing parishes by Bishop Senatore de Mello; it is believed to have existed long before that. It was not in the village centre, but mainly covered the areas of Gudja, Hal Kirkop, Hal Safi, Mqabba, Hal Tarxien, Hal Luqa, Hal Farruġ and Birżebbuġa.

The chapel stands freely and has a rectangular plan which measures about eleven by fourteen metres. Having said that, it was originally built in the shape of a cross. In 1512, the rear end of the chapel was demolished and the stones were used in the construction of the present church. It also had six doors though only two remain. The church served as parish church until 1676 when the present

church was built. A belfry was added in the 16th century.

On the arrival of the Knights of St John, a captain was appointed to defend the area of Bir Miftuh. In 1565, during the Great Siege of Malta, the church was desecrated by the invading Turks. It is said that in order to preserve the treasures of the church, including the bells, from the invaders, the people buried them in the tombs of the church.

The church was visited by the Apostolic Delegate Monsignor Pietro Dusina in 1575 who found it well equipped for divine services. In 1655, the people of Gudja decided to build a new church in the centre of the village. Everything was transferred to the new church once it had been built in 1676.

In 1830, Bettina Muscat Cassia D'Aurel restored this church. On April 9, 1942 the church ceiling collapsed as a result of an air raid during World War II. The church was again restored by the parish priest of Gudja. Unfortunately, the church was abandoned until 1970 when it was handed over to the national trust Din l-Art Ħelwa. In 1973, the trust, sponsored by the Malta International Airport, started restoring this church. During the restoration, frescos were discovered above the front door. A new pavement was installed. Restoration was finished in 2004.

**Present Day** - Today the church is in good condition. Din l-Art Ħelwa is curator to the church and opens it on the first Sunday of each month from 9.00 am till 12.00 pm.

**Interior** - The altar painting dates from the 16th century. It is painted on wood and depicts the Eternal Father holding a crucifix surrounded by angels. Under the crucifix there is the Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus with St Peter and St Paul. The church has one altar which was consecrated on March 26, 1591.

**Frescos** - Frescos from the 16th century were uncovered between 1978 and 1980. Frescos covering the inside western wall were discovered under six layers of lime. Only parts of the frescos remain though it is clear that the topic is the Last Judgment divided into three tiers of figures.<sup>[5]</sup>

The upper tier shows the Apostles and Mary with Christ in the centre. Various saints and figures are portrayed below this tier. The second tier shows the condemned taken into the fires of hell by demons with horns, tails and webbed feet. On the left side, one can make out the wing of an angel and the back of one of the faithful being drawn towards God and the Virgin Mary. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden is depicted in the lower tier. On the north wall, there is a fresco of a woman, in a costume typical of the 16th century, holding a lily in one hand and pointing to the main altar painting with the other. The frescos were restored by George Farrugia, Diplomato Istituta del Restauro, Roma and Associate of the International Institute for Conservation.

# From Malta with love

Actor Paul Capsis honours the spirit of his grandmother in *Angela's Kitchen*, writes Elissa Blake.



'This play is a three-hander,' Paul Capsis says. 'A cupboard, a table and me.' That's not counting all the kitchen props, a vast collection of postcards from Malta and boxes of treasured family photographs.

*Angela's Kitchen* is a tribute to the actor's maternal grandmother, who raised him in her Surry Hills home. In monologue, music and photographs, Capsis tells how Angela grew up in Malta during the Depression, lost her mother at eight (she died in childbirth) and survived the privations and

German air raids of World War II. Mother knows best...Angela (Paul Kapsis) wanted to make a new life for her family. At 30, she boarded a ship to Australia with her five children to join her husband, who'd found work as a wharfie in Woolloomooloo.

'They were all seasick for the entire six weeks,' Capsis says. 'She vowed never to go back to Malta. She wanted a better life for her family in Sydney. I'm the first in the family to ever go back.'

Capsis is best known as a cabaret performer and a two-time Helpmann Award-winning theatre actor. But this is the first time he's performed a theatre piece about his own life. 'I'm very nervous,' he says. 'I don't sing a note in this. It's pure storytelling in my own words and it's very personal.'

Capsis wrote the play with the director Julian Meyrick a year after his grandmother passed away. 'It was scary at first because she was everything to me and I still miss her so much. But I wanted to honour her spirit,' he says. 'She was incredibly warm and generous and she had a great sense of humour. I really wanted to share my connection with her and also to create a piece of theatre about Malta. There are a lot of family stories that are Aboriginal, Greek, Lebanese or Italian but never Maltese.' Capsis takes on all the family roles, speaks Maltese and shares his collection of family snaps ('it's hardly William Yang territory,' he quips) and postcards.

Meyrick describes Capsis as a very 'gifted character actor trapped in the career of a successful cabaret artist'. 'There are some things Paul can do that are very unique to him and you'll see that in this show,' he says. 'Anyone who has loved and lost a special family member will be able to connect with it. 'I think theatre helps us process the difficult things in life.'



Perhaps one of the most remarkable sights in France, a chapel perched on a volcanic plug. This is the Rock of Aiguilhe, on the edge of the town of Puy en Velay, in the Auvergne. The Chapelle Saint-Michel has stood there for 1042 years, since Bishop Gothescalk had it built in 962 on his return from a pilgrimage to Santiago del Compostella in Galicia. In 1955 workers found relics under the altar that had been there since it was built.



## Valletta Film Festival sees Oscar-nominated directors and virtual reality experience come to Malta



Julian Bonnici High-profile and critically acclaimed films, along with a 360-degree virtual reality experience, are set to feature in the third edition of the Valletta Film Festival (VFF).<sup>b</sup> Three Maltese short films are also taking part in the competition: *Arkadia*, *Prickly Pear* and *Lejliet*.

Documentary features *Burning Bikinis* by Emmanuel-Tut-Farah and Alessandro

Tesei, and *Fishers of Men* by MOAS, both Maltese, are also screening at the festival.

A new venue, Herbert Ganado Gardens, Floriana, will be hosting films from the *Without Borders* selection, which will be focusing on Latin American cinema, as well as special screenings from Japan and Sweden. The venue can host up to 250 people.

Pjazza Teatru Rjal will once again be hosting the opening and closing ceremonies of the festival, while indoor and open-air screenings will take place at Embassy Cinemas and the Spazju Kreattiv, St James Cavalier, respectively.

St George's Square will also be offering a virtual reality experience showing 360 films. The festival kicks off with the screening of *Fortunata*, an Italian film from acclaimed director Sergio Castellito, which debuted at the Cannes Film Festival and which saw lead actress Jasmine Trica receive the Best Actress Award in the Un Certain Regard category.

This year's edition will also see a number of high-profile films in competition, including *Spoor*, from Oscar-nominated Agnieszka Holland, who directed several episodes of American TV shows such as *The Wire* and *House of Cards*, on top receiving critical acclaim of her features *Europa Europa*, *Angry Harvest*, and *In Darkness*.

There will also be a number of free screenings, teamed up with UNHCR, in St George's Square to celebrate World Refugee Day on 20 June.

The free screenings will include *Burning Bikinis* and *Fishers of Men*. Seven feature films, seven documentaries, and 25 short films, including three Maltese features, will be competing for the Triton awards, Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Actor and Actress, Best Documentary, and Best Short Film. The ceremony takes place on Saturday, 24 June at Pjazza Teatru Rjal.

In a year of voting, the Audi Audience Award is also being introduced, and will be announced on Sunday, 25 June, minus the banging on Perspex glass. The master of cinema for this year's edition will be Jean Pierre Jeunet, the famous French director of films such as *Amélie*, *The City of Lost Children*, and *A Very Long Engagement*.

VFF will also include various master classes in film, namely 'Script Presentation and Film Pitching', conducted by Giovanni Robbiano from FAMU, one of the oldest film schools in the world. *Tickets, festival passes, master classes and events can be found on [www.vallettafilmfestival.com](http://www.vallettafilmfestival.com)*



The Maltese Newsletter 171 was very interesting and informative. In my opinion, there are very few articles in Maltese; but on the whole well done .

Now I would like to answer that reader who wrote that article , “Question I have asked several times, but was never given an answer” .

First of all with all respect, if Mr. Gauci (see TMN Number 171, page 8) is really interested in helping his parents he

should do his homework well. He said that his parents got a Maltese passport. That is the most important document because with it they can go to The Identity Management Office (IDMO, Gattard House, Triq Nazzjonali, Blata I-Bajda, at the office of the ID cards ,apply for the ID card which includes KartAnzjan card (pension card). Then with that they can have the pensioners' *tal-linja card* for the public transport, where they can go anywhere and pay only 50 cents. Even they can use it for the Gozo Ferry which comes at a very discounted price.

If something happens to them health wise they will be treated the same as the locals at Mater Dei Hospital, I went through this experience personally and I was treated like 5 star hotel.

Another important card is available for them too is The European Health card; where if they go somewhere in Europe like lots of migrants do, they will be looked after. Because with the Maltese passport we are considered as European citizens. And there's lots more privileges, but one got to look for them. My friend, you can rest your mind that with the Maltese passport when you are in Malta you are treated like the Maltese citizens.

Now in regards to the Maltese passport it's important that everyone knows that with the latest agreement we are entitled for dual citizenship and this goes for our children and our children's children as long as the father has a Maltese passport . In other words the Maltese passport goes from us as first generation to the second and third generation. I think it will be of general interest if you public my answer. Just keep going with the good work. **Greg Caruana (NSW – Australia)**

*Further to comments made by S. Gauci, NSW, Australia, I totally agree with him, I also wonder why having been born in Malta of Maltese parents but holder of an Australian passport I was not permitted to stay in Malta for more than three months. There are not even provisions to extend my stay. Then, you get Maltese politicians visiting Australia and saying how proud they are of us. I am not asking for any special privileges and do not expect a concession card and/or Kartanzjan just able to extend my stay over the three months. Why should I have to apply for a Maltese passport to be allowed this privilege? I am only spending money while I am in Malta and not a burden on the Maltese government. Vic Vella, Victoria, Australia*


**Thanks for another excellent edition of 'The Maltese eNewsletter'. It is interesting, informative and visually very appealing.....as usual! We will be in Europe/Malta during June/August but we continue looking forward to receiving your publication whilst overseas. Regards. Ray & Marie-Louise Anastasi**

**Greetings from northern California, USA. While reading the article regarding Malta honoring their sports figures in your last Newsletter, I thought about Abala Road and the Abala Sports Complex in Darwin, Australia. Are you familiar with it and its Maltese connection? On our visit there a few years ago, I learned some interesting information about Abala and his Maltese connection. Do you know anything about this connection? Thanks again for enhancing my knowledge and understanding of the country of my birth. Fred Aquilina**

# Maltese E-ID Cards


The government of Malta is making it easier to use its new eID card online, according to announcements by the country's Information Technology Agency (MITA) and Identity Malta, the agency responsible for issuing electronic identity cards for Maltese citizens.

## CHANGE OF IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS




**MALTESE NATIONALS:** from old Identity Card to eID CARDS


**EXPATRIATES:** issue of Residence/Documentation permit which serves also as an Identification Document in Malta  
*(For EU/EEA/Swiss and Third Country Nationals Authorised to reside in Malta)*




**OLD**  
TYPE NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD  
**NOT VALID AFTER 31 DECEMBER 2015**



**NEW**  
**MORE THAN 97% OF THE MALTESE POPULATION UPGRADED TO THE NEW TYPE DURING THE MASS ROLL OUT**




**OLD**  
EXPATRIATES CARD WITH NUMBER ENDING WITH AN A  
**NOT VALID AFTER 31 DECEMBER 2015**



**NEW**  
**ELECTRONIC RESIDENCE CARD (eRP) FOR EXPATRIATES (NUMBER ENDING WITH AN A)**

**eID CARDS**  
**Identity Management Office**  
 Gattard House, Blata l-Bajda  
**Opening Hours**  
 Mon - Fri: 8.00am - 2.00pm  
 Saturday: 8.00am - 11.00am



**WHERE CAN I UPGRADE MY OLD CARD TO THE NEW MORE SECURE ELECTRONIC TYPE**

**eRESIDENCE DOCUMENTS**  
**Expatriates Affairs Department**  
 Evans Building, Valletta  
**Opening Hours**  
 Mon - Fri: 7.30am - 12.30pm  
 Extended Opening Hours: 15.30pm - 19.30pm  
 (For holders of old ID cards only)

For further information please visit [www.identitymalta.com](http://www.identitymalta.com)

Last year, MITA upgraded the country's electronic identity system. "The newly upgraded system will see the provisioning of an upgraded technology infrastructure for better performance, stability and reliability. This will allow the Government to pursue the next phases of the planned simplification of the user authentication experience", MITA explained on its website. Malta transitioned to eID cards, and ID cards without chips are no longer valid as of 31 December last year.

The chip on the e-ID Card allows users to access eGovernment services. "The advanced electronic features of the card will also enable electronic signatures which are legally equivalent to handwritten signatures", the government explains in an introduction to the new cards. The chip includes two digital certificates for authentication and signatures, along with applications for ticketing and an electronic purse.



# THE MALTESE LANGUAGE MADE EASY

by Liz Ayling



The next time you're baffled by an odd Maltese word on a menu, muttered by an old man in the village square, or perhaps scrawled on the back of a lorry in the dust, then help is at hand. Launched last autumn, the English-Maltese online dictionary – [www.englishmaltesedictionary.com](http://www.englishmaltesedictionary.com) – is proving already a popular place to resolve many linguistic puzzles of *Malti*, ones that fox not just foreigners but the Maltese too.

The online dictionary is the culmination of years of research, and a labour of love, of its compiler Ian Vella. The online English-to-Maltese dictionary is becoming a community-driven project as well; content is constantly growing thanks to responses and suggestions received from users, ranging from university students to Maltese emigrants in Australia and Canada. In the near future, users will also be able to add translations and articles, so it becomes a kind of 'Wiki' on the Maltese language.

In fact, Maltese emigrants to the new world are an interesting insight into Maltese. It is thought that they and their descendents may be speaking an older version of the language, with its rigid rules and fewer words derived from alien languages, just as the emigrants did in the '60s when they left Malta. Maltese in émigré communities may well be speaking a *Malti* in a time capsule.

The origins and evolution of Maltese are fascinating. The Maltese language was adopted in Malta officially in 1935 when Malta was still an English colony. Estimates on how many people speak it vary, but it's probably around the 600,000 mark.

The Maltese language became an officially-recognised European Union language, which means that most documents and laws are being translated from English to Maltese. There are also interpreters in the Maltese language. A press contact told me however that the European Parliament and Commission pigeon holes with EU documents in Maltese are always brimming full – implying that Maltese journalists prefer to pick up the English versions.

However, on the flip-side, joining the EU has in fact cemented Maltese as a less widely-spoken European language and given its learning a boost. The EU is keen to promote diversity and retain customs and minor and regional languages (take Manx and Basque for instance) to off-set the impression of a European 'superstate'. What this means is that Maltese translation services are in demand more than ever.

## DUN KARM PSAILA HUWA PATRIJOTT GHAX TA L- QAWMIEN LILL-POPLU MALTI U LIL ILSIEN TIEGĦU



Most scholars agree that the Maltese language formed after being influenced from a mixture of Arabic and Sicilian dialects. Although Maltese is Semitic in its spoken nature, it is written using the Latin orthographic rules.

Around 75% of the words and rules that exist in the Maltese language at present derive from a dialect spoken in Sicily. Scholars think though that certain rules which these dialects are based upon resemble more the ancient Punic language rather than today's Italian language.

The Maltese language also borrows vaguely from Arabic morphological rules (that is, the structure and content of words). Recently, a dialect very similar to the Maltese language was discovered being spoken in parts of Tunis.

The close geographic location and the historical links

between Malta and the Arabic world suggest that some rules have been morphed into the Maltese language. However Maltese evolves from now on though, its neologisms are sure to be recorded for posterity in the English-Maltese online dictionary!

## L-INNU MALTI

Lil din l-art ħelwa,  
 L-omm li tatna isimha,  
 Ħares, Mulej, kif dejjem  
 int ħarist:  
 Ftakar li lilha bl-oħla dawl  
 libbist.  
 Agħti, kbir Alla,  
 Id-dehen lil min jaħkimha,  
 Rodd il- ħniena lis-sid,  
 Saħħa 'l-ħaddiem:  
 Seddaq il-għaqda fil-Maltin  
 u s-sliem.



### *L-Innu Malti*

1. Lil din l-art he - lwa, l-Omm li tat - na i - si - mha  
 2. Agh - ti, kbir Al - la, id-deh'n lil min jah - ki - mha,

ha - res, Mu - lej, kif dej - jem Int ħa - rist:  
 Rodd il- ħnie - na lis - sid, saħ-ħa 'l-had - di - em:

*f* Fta - kar li li - lha bil - oħ - la dawl lib - bist!  
 Sed - daq il- għaq - da fil - Mal - tin u s - sliem!

## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF MALTA



**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**



***Canada Day Celebrations In Gozo***  
**Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**

At 9.00 in the morning committee members will raise  
the Canadian, European and Maltese flags and lay flowers  
At the Emigrants' Memorial, Mgarr, Gozo



**Evening Celebrations**

*Celebrations start at 7.00pm with the playing of our National Anthems  
and raising of the flags in front of the Country Terrace.*

Followed by a Hot and Cold Buffet  
Live Entertainment by Cini Brothers  
*Fantastic company and dining in a breath taking view*

***Come and bring your friends to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday together***

***DRESS CODE:- SMART CASUAL***

**Adults: € 30**

**Children: €15**

For tickets and more information please CALL or SMS

Marlene Muscat: 7955 7580 Connie Grima: 7956 4269 Gina Hili: 7995 6376

Alfred Camilleri 9924 6043

Email: [info@mcagozo.com](mailto:info@mcagozo.com)





proud 🍁 strong 🍁 free

## Canada Day History

Canada Day celebrates Canada's independence from Britain on July 1, 1867. Prior to 1867, Canada was a British North American Colony composed of present day Ontario and Quebec. On July 1st, 1867, Her Majesty Queen Victoria of Great Britain officially proclaimed the Confederation of Canada's founding provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the new Dominion of Canada became

a self-governing body within the British realm.

Although it was a self-governing body, Canada did not attain legislative independence from Britain until the signing of the Statute of Westminster on December 11, 1931. July 1st, originally named Dominion Day, was renamed Canada Day and made an official statutory holiday in 1983.

### Canada Day Facts & Quotes

- On July 1, 1980, *O Canada* was named the official national anthem.
- The Queen of Canada, Queen Elizabeth II, is sometimes in attendance at Canada Day celebrations held at Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Although the Dominion of Canada began with 4 provinces (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), it rapidly expanded in the years following Confederation. Manitoba and Northwest Territories (NWT) joined in 1870, British Columbia in 1871, Prince Edward Island in 1873, the Arctic Islands joined the NWT in 1880, the Yukon in 1898, Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 and Newfoundland and Labrador in 1949. Finally, in 1999, the NWT were split in order to create the new territory of Nunavut.
- In a world darkened by ethnic conflicts that tear nations apart, Canada stands as a model of how people of different cultures can live and work together in peace, prosperity, and mutual respect. - Bill Clinton

Canada has never been a melting-pot; more like a tossed salad. - Arnold Edinborough

### History of the National Anthem of Canada

"O Canada" (French: Ô Canada) is the national anthem of Canada. The song was originally commissioned by Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Théodore Robitaille for the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony; Calixa Lavallée composed the music, after which words were written by the poet and judge Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The lyrics were originally in French and an English version was created in 1906.

### **The National Anthem of Canada – O Canada Lyrics**

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

## **Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton**

The Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH) was founded in 2004 under the experience and direction of Victor Micallef, Joseph Brincat, Agnes Brincat, and Jason Allan.

Their tireless efforts have resulted in the formation of an executive and a strong membership that has not seen as much activity in the Hamilton area since the 1980's.

The Association continues to grow its membership beyond the Greater Hamilton Area by increasing accessible programming that not only interests Maltese Canadians but will sustain Maltese culture with our youths for generations to come.

We are always looking for suggestions from our membership or from those who are considering membership in MCACH.

### **MCACH EXECUTIVE**

Yolanda Rutka- President, Pauline Citino- Vice President, Gary Greck - Treasurer  
Julie Gatt - Secretary

### **MCACH DIRECTORS**

Gemma Allan- Assistant Treasurer - Assistant Secretary  
David Muscat-Baron - Public Relations  
Jason Allan - Membership at large - Membership Development

## **I do not help my wife.**

A friend came to my house for coffee, we sat and talked about life. At some point in the conversation, I said, "I'm going to wash the dishes and I'll be right back." He looked at me as if I had told him I was going to build a space rocket. Then he said to me with admiration but a little perplexed: "I'm glad you help your wife, I do not help because when I do, my wife does not praise me. Last week I washed the floor and no thanks." I went back to sit with him and explained that I did not "help" my wife. Actually, my wife does not need help, she needs a partner. I am a partner at home and through that society are divided functions, but it is not a "help" to do household chores.

I do not help my wife clean the house because I live here too and I need to clean it too. I do not help my wife to cook because I also want to eat and I need to cook too. I do not help my wife wash the dishes after eating because I also use those dishes. I do not help my wife with her children because they are also my children and my job is to be a father. I do not help my wife to wash, spread or fold clothes, because the clothes are also mine and my children.

I am not a help at home, I am part of the house. And as for praising, I asked my friend when it was the last time after his wife finished cleaning the house, washing clothes, changing bed sheets, bathing her children, cooking, organizing, etc. You said thank you. But a thank you of the type: Wow, sweetheart !!! You are fantastic!!! Does that seem absurd to you? Are you looking strange? When you, once in a lifetime, cleaned the floor, you expected in the least, a prize of excellence with great glory ... why? You never thought about that, my friend? Maybe because for you, the macho culture has shown that everything is her job.

Perhaps you have been taught that all this must be done without having to move a finger? Then praise her as you wanted to be praised, in the same way, with the same intensity. Give her a hand, behave like a true companion, not as a guest who only comes to eat, sleep, bathe and satisfy needs ... Feel at home. In his house. The real change of our society begins in our homes, let us teach our sons and daughters the real sense of fellowship! " *Submitted by M. Fotiou*

# Order of Malta Ireland

The Order of Malta was founded in the 12th century in Jerusalem to care for Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land and along pilgrimage routes through Christian Europe. Subsequently they were known as the Knights Hospitallers of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta. When they came to Ireland they maintained hospitals for the sick, the poor, and the needy, and hostels for the use of travellers. The order is involved in many charitable activities, the most important being the administration of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps.



The **Order of Malta Ambulance Corps** is a voluntary ambulance and first aid organisation with over 4,000 volunteers involved in over 80 units across the Island of Ireland. They are a major provider of excellence in first aid training, ambulance cover at large events, patient transport, community care, nursing services and assistance to other charities in most of the major cities and towns across the island of Ireland.

Their Ambulance Corps is committed to providing caring services in a Christian, caring and non-discriminatory manner, to "Our Lords, the Poor and the Sick".

Their presence at any events never implies support for any particular activity or agenda, their mission is to provide aid to any member of the public who requires it in times of an accident or injury. Their members attend events only in the interests of public health and safety and their presence at any event does not endorse any activity, agenda or point of view.

As one of the largest voluntary organisations in Ireland, they fundraise at a community and national level to support their local Ambulance Corps units and national community care initiatives. Order of Malta Ireland receives less than 10% of its income from government funding and relies heavily on the voluntary donations generated from local unit fundraising campaigns and providing first aid training services. All income from training and fundraising is reinvested to support the ongoing training of their volunteers and the provision of community care services across Ireland.

They operate over 165 ambulances, rapid response 4x4's, mobile accident and emergency suites, support vehicles, medical bikes and command centres. Our headquarters also houses a command and control centre to coordinate vehicles and personnel in the event of a major incident.