

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Speech by the President at the Convention for Maltese Living Abroad

Merħba!

It is with pleasure that I welcome you all to the Russian Chapel at San Anton Palace, for the opening of this year's Convention for Maltese Living Abroad.

I extend a warm welcome to you as Maltese and Gozitans, who, in actual fact, live far from home, but still call Malta and Gozo your home and your country.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in Malta, and hope that your re-union with your families and loved ones, is especially meaningful, and that you will have the opportunity to re-establish the bonds between you. I will now revert to our mother tongue, our beautiful language that identifies us as a nation, wherever we are in the world, and that I hope you still embrace our language and pass it on to your children.

Il-preżenza tagħkom hawn hija prova ċara ta' kemm aħna l-Maltin irnexxhielna nimirħu lil hinn minn pajjiżna, u nilħqu l-aspirazzjonijiet tagħna, inkunu fejn inkunu. Fil-fatt, il-Maltin u Għawdxin ħutna jinsabu f'kull rokna tad-dinja.

Jien konvint li din il-preżenza qawwija madwar id-dinja hija xi ħaġa li nistgħu nibnu fuqha, u li tista' tiżviluppa aktar, għal ġid tal-komunità sħiħa Maltija, irrispettivament ta' fejn tinsab. Wara kollox, bħala komunità waħda, aħna marbutin flimkien b'kultura u l-valuri komuni, u li għandha twassalna biex nikkontribwixxu għal ġid ta' xulxin.

Minn meta ħadt il-ġurament ta' President ta' Malta, sostnejt li rrid, matul il-process tal-Presidenza tiegħi, naħseb fil-Maltin u l-Għawdxin ħutna, li huma mxerrdin mal-erbat irjieħ tad-dinja. Irrid insaħħaħ il-kuntatt magħhom. Irrid li flimkien inkabbru l-għarfien tagħkom l-ulied ta' dan il-ġens.

Irrid nurikom li għalija, intom parti minna. Irrid ngħinkom biex tibqgħu tgħożżu l-identità Maltija. Ix-xewqa tiegħi hija li kull minn minnkom jixtieq li jipparteċipa b'xi mod fil-ħajja ta' pajjizna, isib l-opportunità li jagħmel dan fil-Presidenza

Fil-Presidenza, waqqaft il-Fondazzjoni għall-Ġid tas-Soċjetà, li għandha l-għan li tagħmel riċerka relevanti, xierqa u f'waqtha, għaż-żminijiet soċjali tal-lum, u timpenja ruħha mas-soċjetà għall-promozzjoni tal-paċi u l-għaqda fost il-poplu tagħna, u kull min jinsab fostna.

Minbarra dan, il-Malta Community Chest Fund, fi ftit granet ohra, ukoll ser issir fondazzjoni, bilghan li tkompli tqassam 'il fuq minn 3.5 miljun ewro kull sena, biex tipprovdi appogg finanzjarju ghall-kura ta' nies Maltin li jkunu ghaddejjin mill-marda kiefra tal-kancer, jew mard terminali iehor.

Din I-għajnuna tista' tingħata biss permezz tal-ġenerożità tal-Maltin u I-Għawdxin kollha, jgħixu fejn jgħixu.

Jien ninkoraģģixxi lil kull minn jista' joffri l-għajnuna tiegħu, kemm finanzjarja kif ukoll, b'kull mod ieħor, biex jagħmel dan minn qalbu. Jien nemmen li, fid-dinja tal-lum, ħafna nies, inkluż iż-żgħażagħ, huma aktar motivati u għandhom sens ta' parteċipazzjoni u entużjażmu kbir, biex jagħtu mill-ħin tagħhom, għall-ġid ta' ħaddieħor.

Fl-aħħar, iżda mhux l-anqas, jiena kburija bil-fatt li jien il-President tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha, u għaldaqstant, il-President tagħkom ukoll. Flimkien irridu niċċelebraw dak kollu li hu Malti, dak li jagħmilna poplu, ġens magħqud u li dejjem fittex il-paċi, lest li juri solidarjetà ma' kull min ikollu bżonn, u fl-istess ħin, poplu ferrieħi u lest li jilqa' lil kulħadd.

Nirringrazzjakom minn qalbi talli ģejtu u qed tipparteċipaw bis-sħiħ f'din il-konvenzjoni. Nawguralkom suċċess f'din il-konferenza, u li tkompu d-djalogu li tibdew hawn għal ġid tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin kollha.

Nawguralkom li tkomplu żżuru lil pajjiżkom kull meta tistghu. Dejjem ser issibu minn jilgghakom.



Royal blue: Her Majesty the Queen (centre) with Prince Philip (left), Maltese President Coleiro (second right), her husband Edgar Preca (second left), and the Duchess of Cornwall and Prince of Wales (far right) attend an evening reception in the grounds of the San Anton Palace. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2015

'Malta still needs you,' President tells Maltese living abroad

John Cordina

Malta still benefited from the contribution of the Maltese diaspora, President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca maintained as she opened a Convention for Maltese Living Abroad this afternoon.

The convention, which is being held between 20 and 23 April, is being organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and is taking place at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta.

But it was opened with a mass celebrated by Gozo Bishop Mario Grech at the Russian Chapel within San Anton Palace yesterday afternoon, followed by a reception at the palace grounds.

The convention is the fourth being organised by the government for the Maltese diaspora - the others took place in 1969, 2000 and 2010 - and it is being held in the backdrop of the centenary celebrations commemorating the Gallipoli campaign and ANZAC Day. Many Australian and New Zealand casualties in the Gallipoli campaign had been evacuated to Malta for medical treatment.

Over 100 diaspora Maltese residing in various countries - including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and the USA - have come to Malta to attend the conference.

A number of Maltese living abroad are also taking part in a diaspora art exhibition held at Heritage Malta's exhibition venue in Melita Street, Valletta, and a symposium for Maltese novelists living abroad will be organised at the University of Malta Building in Valletta on 22 April.

The convention is being chaired by the permanent secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad had appointed Maurice Cauchi as its representative on the organising committee.

In her address, Ms Coleiro Preca said that the delegates' presence was a clear evidence of how the Maltese managed to succeeded wherever they may be. She said that while Maltese people have ended up living in every corner of the globe, they remained united by culture and by common values.

She insisted that Malta and the Maltese diaspora could contribute to each other's benefit, and pledged that the Presidency would remain close to Maltese people living overseas.

"You are a part of us, and we want to help you foster your Maltese identity. Malta still needs you," she said.

The President said that any Maltese people living overseas who wished to contribute to Malta could do so in various manners, including through the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society and the Malta Community Chest Fund, which will itself be transformed into a foundation in the near future.

She concluded by stating that she was proud to be the President of every Maltese person, including those living overseas, and encouraged the diaspora to continue to give visibility to their country of origin.

Ms Coleiro Preca also augured that the Maltese living abroad would continue visiting Malta, stating that they will always find people ready to welcome them on their arrival.



President Coleiro Preca embarks on state visit in Chile, South America

'More needs to be done in support of women and girls across the world'

Photo: Kevin Abela, DO



The two presidents, Coleiro Preca and Bachelet, inspecting the troops

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is on the first state visit by a Maltese head of state to the Republic of Chile. At the La Moneda Palace, in Santiago, President Coleiro Preca was welcomed by Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, with whom she later had a private meeting.

President Coleiro Preca and President Bachelet recently met during an event, which focused on the empowerment of women and issues of gender-based violence. The event was organised by the Council of World Women Leaders, of which President Coleiro Preca is a member.

President Coleiro Preca said she was proud and reassured that both presidents "stand in solidarity with all peoples who are experiencing exclusion, violence and precarity, simply because of their gender," and she was even more proud to have President Bachelet as a committed ally in the work which had to be done, "to ensure that equality and equity become a reality in the lives of every women and girl in our world."

During their meeting, both Presidents spoke about the development of relations between the peoples and the authorities of Malta and Chile, from one based on the diplomatic relations which began in 1989, to a more profound relationship "between our communities and our governments".

A memorandum of understanding on political consultations was also signed by Environment Minister José Herrera, on behalf of the Maltese Foreign Ministry.

President Coleiro Preca said that the agreement would greatly facilitate regular consultations between Malta and Chile, on bilateral, regional, and international matters of mutual interest



The President of Malta visits the Social Development Centre of the Maltese Dominican Community in Albania

H E President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, and Mr Preca, on the 18 February during her state visit to Albania visited the Social Development Centre for Children and Youths in Lagjja Mirdita, Durres, which is run by the Maltese Dominican Community in Albania. To accompany the

president a large Maltese delegation was delighted by the festive and grateful welcome of the local Albanian community.

Following a programme of traditional folk music and dance, the President was shown around the premises by the director of the center Father Geoffrey Bugeja O.P. Who in his address showed how "Three years ago plans were prepared foreseeing a Social Centre with the best possible conditions to serve the many needs of the people in this village and in the villages nearby. The foundations of this centre were laid and today we can appreciate the completed project. Here we now have halls in which to teach catechism and where personal and social education can be offered. We hope soon to start activities at the kindergarten and also to offer basic medical help and organize after school activities, together with other types of recreation and sports. We wish to offer a healthy environment in which the various services could be offered in the context of the holistic formation of people.

All along these twenty years we have intensely and constantly felt the support of the Maltese people who, although they live on a small island with few natural resources, they are immensely generous. Their generosity shows itself both through their financial support through different fund-raising activities, and by a hands-on experience of voluntary work here. Many are the persons and groups who at their own expense come to Albania and freely offer their material and educational services in support of our mission."

The President inaugurated the new kindergarten facilities of the Centre, which like the other parts of the Centre were made possible thanks to the financial contributions of people from Malta and Gozo.



The President, who previously visited Durres two years ago when the Centre was still in its early construction stages, remarked that seeing the progress which has been done in the space of two years "is a big surprise, but it also touched my heart", and that the whole centre is a reminder and a confirmation of the kind-heartedness of the people of Malta and Gozo.

Whilst addressing those present, the President said that she looks forward to welcoming the young people of Durres to Malta as she proposed that youth exchanges between Malta and Lagjja Mirdita are organised.

On the 19th of September 2015 in a festive environment, a new and bigger church situated near the centre was blessed by the Maltese Auxiliary Bishop of Tirana-Durres Mgr. George Frendo O.P. and the Centre inaugurated by the Master of Domenican Order, Fr. Bruno Cadoré O.P. For this occasion were many volunteers from Malta who participated (25 February 2016)

Sir Joseph Howard

(1921 - 1923)

FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA



Born in Valletta in 1862, Malta's first Prime Minister under the Colonial Government, Joseph Howard was educated at the Lyceum and abroad and served as an officer in the French Military academy. He joined the commercial sector - the tobacco industry - and was appointed director of Cousis Cigarettes. Between 1914 and 1925 he served as consul of Japan and later President of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1912, Joseph Howard was elected member to the Council of Government after being nominated by the Comitato Patriottico. In 1921, he joined the UPM of Mgr. I. Panzavecchia and was elected Senator in the first Maltese Parliament. As Panzavecchia did not accept the premiership, Governor Lord Plumer offered the post to Howard. Between 1921 and 1923 Joseph Howard managed to lead the first Maltese Government with the

support of the Labour Party. His successes were mainly due to his keen sense of tolerance and the result of his vast experience in administration.

Howard was regarded as the gentleman 'par excellence' and was held in great esteem by politicians of all political creeds. Joseph Howard was President of the Government emigration committee and in 1919 he headed the Maltese delegation to France which discussed the employment of Maltese labour in that country. He was also President of the Societa' dell'Arte, Manifattura e Commercio and President of the La Societa Filarmonica La Valette. He was also made Officer of the British Empire (OBE).



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Work & Mission http://birdlifemalta.org/

BirdLife Malta is the oldest environmental organisation in Malta. What started as a small ornithological society for the study and the protection of birds and their habitats in 1962 has today grown to be the largest eNGO in the Maltese Islands. Today BirdLife manages four nature reserves, have succeeded in thier efforts to limit illegal hunting in Malta, run an annual nationwide school education

programme, and manage several EU LIFE-funded scientific studies about Malta's seabirds. Thanks to us the first eight marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for Malta were recently announced. Here you can find out how it all started, what we do today, who we are, how you can become part of the team and all the information you need for contacting us. You can also watch a video production which illustrates our history and the work we do. The video is available in English or in Maltese - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnpoqtrHfpk&feature=youtu.be/



BirdLife Malta is a non-governmental organisation working to conserve birds and their habitats in the Maltese Islands. The mission of BirdLife Malta is to conserve wild birds, their habitats and biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. For more than 50 years, BirdLife Malta has been an advocate for the protection of Maltese wildlife. We engage Maltese people in their natural environment, and ensure a natural legacy is left for the next generation.

Established in 1962, BirdLife Malta is the oldest environmental NGO in Malta. As a partner organisation of BirdLife International, we form part

of a network of 120 NGOs worldwide, and with the aim of creating a united voice, we speak out for local and international wildlife. Our primary objective of conserving birds and habitats is achieved through our work in a variety of fields including research, education and campaigning.

BirdLife Protects

Through our community engagement projects and our nature reserves we create homes for nature and safe places for both migratory and resident birds. We monitor spring and autumn migration with the aims of deterring, detecting and reporting the illegal persecution of protected birds.

BirdLife Campaigns

We have been campaigning for better wildlife protection in Malta since 1962. Our previous campaign work has resulted in the end of robin trapping and the creation of new nature reserves. We take a stand to protect Malta's wildlife from damaging developments and we fight for stronger legislation to protect Europe's birds.

BirdLife Researches

BirdLife Malta have been studying the avian species of Malta since the 1950's. Currently our main research project focuses on the breeding seabirds of Malta. Through our scientific work monitoring populations and creating protected areas we are ensuring we take the right action to save Mediterranean bird populations.

BirdLife Educates

BirdLife Malta's education mission is to connect children with nature. Both our formal and informal programmes lay emphasis on experiential learning which offers direct, physical, sensory and intellectual ways of developing a relationship with the world we depend on for our survival.

BirdLife Cares

We currently provide an injured bird service, responding to reports from the general public of birds

injured through hunting or exhausted on migration. We're also working on setting up a rehabilitation centre for injured birds, where we can provide the treatment and care needed to get these birds back to our skies.





Dinja Wahda is BirdLife Malta's education for sustainability programme. Spanning across formal education, from kindergarten, primary and secondary school up to higher education, Dinja Wahda connects classroom learning with outdoor education through nature.

DINJA WAHDA

80% of primary state, church and independent schools take part in Dinja Waħda and a growing number of secondary schools are carrying out Dinja Waħda crosscurricular projects.

Mission The mission of Dinja Waħda is to connect children with nature and trigger behavioural changes that will lead to future

adults who will treat our planet better than we do today.

Vision - To enhance existing and proposed education facilities through landscaping that will improve biodiversity, provide schools with opportunities to engage in experiential outdoor education and allow students to develop a lifelong regard for nature.



Food Festivals and Events



The Maltese love to celebrate food and with plenty of food festivals throughout the year, visitors will be spoiled for choice.

Food is omnipresent in Maltese society. For some it's sustenance, but for most it's a way of coming together as a community and celebrating the things which unite them. Of course it's also a chance to indulge in fried tasty treats. So what are the best events to get your grub on?

L-Imnarja or the feast of St Peter and St Paul, is one of Malta's most beloved celebrations. Visit **Buskett** – one of the island's most beautiful wooded areas - and take in the various food stalls offering everything local, especially rabbit. The feast also includes various farmers and

small producers offering their wares.

Hamrun Chocolate Festival: The title says it all - go to Hamrun, eat chocolate! A relatively new event, the Hamrun Chocolate Festival has already made a big splash locally. For the voyeurs, feast your eyes on professional chocolate sculptures by Malta's leading chefs; for the competitive – take part in a chocolate cake competition; and for the rest of you – just indulge in a mind-bogglingly large array of mouth-watering treats.

Birgufest: Birgufest's *raison d'être* is not food, but food is big part of this beautiful celebration. For two nights, this incredible medieval city switches off almost all electrical light and replaces it with the romance of candles. The atmosphere is warm and lively – museums and other public places are open till late, live music in the square, and most important of all – an abundance of food. Not just any food, mind you – this is pure, traditional Maltese fare, including whole roast pig, tripe stew, *timpana* (macaroni with meat sauce in a pastry case), and much more.

Qormi Bread Festival: This is another recent addition to the culinary calendar. Every year, people from Qormi come out in force to celebrate that most Maltese of staples – bread – and nobody bakes bread like the people of Qormi. Watch the bakers as they demonstrate the preparation and cooking of loaves in traditional wood burning ovens; and of course, sample the crusty warm bread on offer.

Farsons Great Beer Festival: This yearly event organised by Malta's largest brewer Simonds Farsons Cisk plc is a treat for beer and food-lovers alike. You'll find a variety of traditional food stalls as well as international/ethnic fast foods, and with dozens of beer stalls around the festival, there's plenty to wash it all down with.

Festa Frawli: The Mgarr strawberry festival sees this tiny farming village in the north of the island swarmed upon by thousands of hungry festival-goers. The main attractions include record-breaking attempts for the world's largest strawberry shortcake, a multitude of food-stands selling strawberry-based confections, and of course, plenty of strawberries.

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTERS ARE ARCHIVED AT

The Malta Migration Museum - Valletta - Malta

Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives (MCMA) Toronto - Canada

Our Website: www.ozmalta.page4.me/ www.facebook.com/frankscicluna.3/



21,22 and 23 July 2017 - This year Malta's unique fortified medieval city Mdina hosted the Malta International Food Festival, 3 days gastronomic alfresco eating and drinking as well as family fun entertainment.

Over the recent years the festival has managed to attract pronounced attention from thousands who have visited the festival to taste the food from over 10 international cuisines. In total an estimate of 30,000 people have attended during the 2015 and 2016 edition.

During this festival patrons can indulge in freshly-prepared food. Desserts and surprises, together with live cooking shows and spectacles are the order of the day. Designated food areas are carefully decorated to give the visitors the opportunity to virtually transport themselves to the countries and regions being depicted through the culinary expertise of the chefs.

During the event, patrons are entertained with live performances on two different stages offering the likes of Malta's finest artists which shall compliment to the atmosphere. Children will also have their share with activities including bouncy castles and ongoing animation to their delight.

The way it works is easy. Patrons will have to purchase tokens and redeem in any food they desire. Drinks, including a variety of quality wine, will be available for purchase inside the ditch. The Mdina ditch, which separates the Silent City from Rabat, is an alluring architectural masterpiece which has been transformed into a fully accessible public garden in 2013. The garden enjoys breathtaking views of Malta's amazing lanThe Mdina ditch, which separates the Silent City from Rabat, is an alluring architectural masterpiece which has been transformed into a fully accessible public garden in 2013. The garden enjoys breathtaking views of Malta's amazing landscape, while gives an opportunity to walk around the magnificent Mdina bastions.

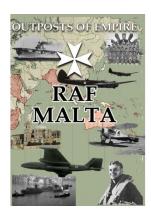
In 2013, the Mdina Ditch project was also one of three finalists competing for the European Garden Heritage Network award for high quality and innovative contemporary concepts and designs of parks and gardens. This year, this amazing venue will once again welcome hundreds of patrons during the Malta International Food Festival.



DITCH

GARDEN

MDINA



RAF Malta DVD £12.99

The Story of the RAF on Malta 1917-1979:

Website: http://outposts-of-empire.co.uk/

Video - http://outposts-of-empire.co.uk/malta-preview-2017/4592627250

RAF Malta is the first of several documentaries being produced by Tod Nicol as part of the 'Outposts of Empire' Project. This 90 minute programme tells the story of the RAF on Malta from its humble beginnings at Royal Naval Air Station at Kalafrana during the First World War, to its final days at RAF Luqa, prior to the British withdrawal. The history is told in commentary and interviews, from the Outposts of Empire archive, with veterans who served on Malta from the Second World War to final departure of British focces in March 1979. The story

is illustrated with archive film and images from the World famous Imperial War Museum Archives, Malta National Archives, Bay Retro picture library and the personal film and photographs of veterans who served on and flew from Malta

I was contacted by one of your readers who alerted me to the piece you published in your Newsletter about my Outposts of Empire project and the DVDs I am producing, thank you very much, it was a great surprise to me and I was wondering if you would like a copy of the Outposts of Empire Malta DVD, to view out of interest of review for your Newsletter (it was reviewed in May by The Aeroplane and RAF News publications here in the UK).

I have sold a few copies in Australia but not a great many the interest seems to be mainly in the UK, I have also tried to get the museums and historical societies on Malta interested in the DVD and the 'Outposts of Empire Project' project but so far there has not been a great deal of interest from the Maltese apart from a few individuals.

Your Newsletter is very interesting and informative, I enjoyed looking through it, I have visited both Malta and Australia on a couple of occasions (I have a brother who lives in Tasmania) and found Malta enchanting and Australia very exciting, it's interesting to read about the mix of cultures in your Newsletter - keep up the good work! I look forward to hearing from you if you'd like a copy of the Outposts of Empire Malta DVD. Best wishes and thank you, Tod Nikol

Mr. Frank Scicluna, Hon. Consul of Malta for South Australia

In your latest of another excellent issue "eNewsletter 177" I noticed at the very end, you stated that the eNewslettes are archived at the Valletta "Migration Museum". Can the same be done to have it archived at our "Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives" (MCMA) in Toronto? While I've been in Malta I've been having hard copies printed to take back to Toronto at the end of August. Thank you for your dedication to the Maltese around the globe. Sincerely yours, Richard S. Cumbo, MCMA Curator

MALTA HIGH COMMISSION CANBERRA AUSTRALIA

CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA Biometric passport applications from Maltese nationals The CONSUL-ON THE MOVE will be at the following venues:

1 SEPTEMBER 2017 The Community Centre on Friday
Progressive Hall, 47 LeHunte Street, Kilburn, South Australia 5084 and at
2 SEPTEMBER 2017 The Maltese Cultural Centre on Saturday

6 Jeanes Street, Beverley, South Australia 5009

between 9.00 AM and 4.00 PM

to accept passport applications.

Apart from passport applications, the Consul will be available for other consular services. The Consul-on-the-Move Program is strictly by appointment only. Maltese nationals interested to avail themselves of this service are to seek an appointment and/or request further information by sending an email to Denise Demicoli - Deputy High Commissioner

consul.canberra@gov.mt or contact

Frank Scicluna

Hon Consul for Malta in South Australia on honconsul@live.com.au



THE QUILT OF BELONGING -Our Story

Quilt Launch at the Canadian Museum of Civilization – ESTHER BRYAN

Quilt of Belonging is a collaborative work of art whose mission is to recognize Canada's

diversity, celebrate our common humanity and promote harmony and compassion among people.

Quilt of Belonging was begun in the fall of 1998 by artist Esther Bryan. In 1995 she went on a life-changing journey to Slovakia with her parents to find the family and home her father had left behind 43 years earlier. The dream of making this artwork was born as she recognized that everyone has a story to tell, each culture has a unique beauty and that the experiences and values of our past inform who we are today. In this textile mosaic, each person can experience a sense of belonging and find a place in the overall design – there is "A Place for All". Together they record human history in textile, illustrating the beauty, complexity and sheer size of the human story.

This monumental artwork, Canada's most comprehensive textile art project, is the work of volunteers from Victoria to Newfoundland to the Arctic Circle. From across Canada, participants were invited to contribute their talents and ideas, reflected through the prism of their cultural backgrounds. The range of materials is astonishing, from sealskin to African mud-cloth, from embroidered silk to gossamer wings of butterflies. (View Block-by-Block.)

The project has been headquartered first in the tiny village of Williamstown in Eastern Ontario and currently in Lancaster, the neighbouring village. Quilt of Belonging is a non-profit corporation and a registered charity. The project is largely funded by public donations. Organizations, corporations and grant agencies have added their support at various times through the years



MALTA CONTRIBUTION - THE BLOCK

A piece of Maltese bobbin lace, representative of a craft dating back to the sixteenth century, forms the centrepiece of the Malta block. This family heirloom, which is set against a coloured background to visually enhance the intricate design, was donated by the block-makers, **Madlene and Richard** Cumbo. It is characteristic of the Maltese lace technique that was influenced by Genoa, but

which has developed its own unique style. The majority of Maltese lace is made from honey-coloured silk; however this example is worked in linen threads, which are typically used to create pieces for household purposes.

The 8-pointed Maltese Cross, woven into the centre, is a distinguishing feature of this form of lacework. Made from four straight-lined, arrowheads that meet at their points, with the ends of the arms consisting of indented Vs, the cross is a symbol of protection and a badge of courage and honour. It was first given to the Knights of St. John who, during the defence of the Holy Land, risked their lives in an effort to save their kinsmen from a painful, fiery death. It has since become the international symbol of firefighters and their willingness to make sacrifices to protect others. Individual parts of the Maltese Cross, stitched outside the lace design, complete the piece.

The first documented Maltese to arrive in Canada was Louis Shickluna, who in 1838 established a large and prominent shipyard on the Welland Canal, between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. It was not until post-World War II that the majority of Maltese immigrants arrived here. Overpopulation, unemployment

and the limited resources available to support a growing population were key factors in the Maltese emigration. Initial newcomers settled in Ontario, and it was not long before immigrant enterprises including bakeries, real estate firms and travel agencies began to emerge. In addition, organizations such as the Maltese Protective Society, Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, the Grand Priory of Canada of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Knights of Malta) and the Maltese Veterans Association were established.

Today there are over 50,000 people of Maltese origin in Canada. The largest Maltese community is in Toronto, with smaller groups located throughout Ontario, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Maltese have made, and continue to make, major contributions to Canadian life in a number of fields, including law, medicine, banking, public service, and print and broadcast media.

https://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/blocks/malta/

LOUIS SHICKLUNA (1808 - 1880) Shipbuilder in Canada



Joseph Scicluna was a dockyard worker married to Therese née Farrugia both of Senglea, MALTA. Their son Louis was born on **16 June 1808**. He was not a prospective student, his inclination was to build boats utilizing the rule of thumb method. At a young age emigrated to America and later settled in Canada where he modified his surname to Shickluna to sound English. After dedicating most of his time observing sea crafts operating in that region managed to establish a shipbuilding yard in St. Catherine in Welland.

The successful story of Louis Schickluna started in 1836 when a man made waterway was taking shape. This allowed ships to bypass Niagara Falls making it a major link in the Great Lakes, the St. Laurence Seaway System. Eight locks along the canal overcome the 320-foot difference between the levels Lakes Ontario and Erie.

Shickluna's business prospered and employed three hundred men out of St. Catherine's work force of two thousand. Although

competing with two other neighbouring yards he obtained substantial orders. This kind hearted Senglean was a great benefactor and contributed enormously to the St. Catherine community he also gave work to run-away slaves from America. His products were in great demand and of superior quality making them to last longer. His private life went through the mill as he lost two wives and in 1858 he married Mary Ann Dunn. He visited Malta twice and on both occasions was given a rousing welcome.

Louis Schickluna died peacefully on **24 November 1880** at the age of 71 and his name is remembered in calling streets and sites after him. Many nearby islands were also named after the sturdy ships built by his yard. Louis Schickluna is considered an important personage in the maritime history of Canada and a plaque in St. Catherine commemorating him reads as follows:

"A prominent Canadian Shipbuilder, Shickluna was born in Malta, where he worked before emigrating to North America. By 1835 he was engaged in ship construction at Youngstown, New York. Three years later, attracted by the traffic, simulated by the Welland Canal competition in 1833, he purchased a shipyard on the Canal at St. Catherine. Shickluna expanded his operations which contributed significantly to the prosperity of the region. Between 1838 and 1880 he directed the construction of over 140 schooners, barkintines, steamers and other vessels designed primarily for service on the Great Lakes, thereby promoting the development on inland navigation in Canada. Following Shickluna's death, his son Joseph continued to operate the St. Catherine shipyard until 1892."

St. Paul The Apostle Parish - West Toronto Canada

Museum of church's treasures, and celebrating 86th anniversary part of upcoming events



Since Father Manuel Parnis came to St. Paul The Apostle Parish, there has been lots of changes including fundraising to fix the building and work to increase the congregation. - Submitted photo A



new day has dawned for parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle Parish.

Under the guidance of the parish priest, Father Manuel Parnis, the Dundas Street West and Runnymede Road-area Roman Catholic church, a fixture in the neighbourhood since 1950, has been undergoing some crucial maintenance and rejuvenation projects. The congregation is in the midst of a fundraising campaign in order to fix some leaky roofs. The church hall and the ceiling of the chapel inside the building are in desperate need of reconstruction.

Since his arrival eight months ago, Parnis has not only worked to improve the physical building, but to restore the congregation's dwindling attendance.

"The Maltese community itself is a dying breed," said Fr. Parnis, who spent 13 years ministering in Peru before arriving in Toronto to take the helm of St. Paul's. "We've tried our best to organize."

Part of this effort involves establishing a museum of Maltese and St. Paul's parish artifacts, including photographs, paintings and chasubles – the robes pastors wear while celebrating mass, among many other pieces.

"We have a beautiful collection of Maltese stamps and old coins dating back hundreds of years," Fr. Parnis said as he uncovered glass cases full of all sorts of treasures. "It's a pity no one knows it's here."

However, that is about to change. The goal is to acquire even more cases to exhibit the artifacts as part of the museum. "These are our roots," Parnis said, adding he would like to screen films about Malta not only for the general public, but also for school children, and to host presentations about Maltese culture and the like, as part of the museum.

"One of our targets is to keep Maltese ideology strong, but I don't want to exclude anybody. We are open to everyone. The mission of this parish is inclusivity."

The initial goal was to have the museum ready for the public by early September to coincide with the new school year, but, "unfortunately," Fr. Parnis said, this deadline has been pushed back due to his travelling back to Peru and then to Malta. This article was published in the Bloor West Villager News in Jul 21, 2016 by Lisa Rainford

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The Lower Hall in St. Paul the Apostle's Church can be rented for weddings and other events. The hall includes space for 230 people, as well as:



Wheelchair accessiblility,



a large bar counter,



gorgeous front lobby,



and a full sized kitchen.



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www.saint-paul-maltese.com/

Meaning of some Maltese Surnames. Chucky Bartolo



The deep, religious meaning of many Maltese first names is quite easily identified, but where exactly did our surnames come from? From Abela to Zammit Malta has quite the variety (bar the Borgs) and our friends over at Kelma Kelma have decided to help clear the air about a few of them.

- **1. Psaila -** Derived from the word *bsajla*, your surname basically means **onion**.
- **2. Theuma -** Most likely derived from the Arabic *al-tawmi* aka someone who grows **garlic** in their fields. It could also be

derived from the word tawm meaning twins.

- 3. Camilleri We're not gonna beat around the bush with this one your surname means camel driver.
- 4. Vella Hey Vellas, you lucked out your surname comes from bella i.e. beautiful.
- **5. Farrugia -** Another surname of Arabic origins, Farrugia comes from al-farrudj, which sounds fancy, but really means **chicken feeder**.
- **6. Borg -** Ah, the famous borg. Still occasionally used in colloquial terms, Borg means a **pile of rocks**. The original Arabic defenition for *burdj* was a **small, rocky tower**. (No, it has nothign to do with the Northerner's *Borg* with a hard 'g').
- **7. Micallef -** Does your Micallef friend always have to have the final say? It may be in their blood as their surname literally means **judge**.
- **8. Scerri -** The multiple spellings of Scerri vs Xerri are only the tip of the iceberg. This surname could have descended from the Sicilian *sciarra* meaning **a fight** or from Arabic's *sharra* meaning **cruel**. There's also theories about it being *shirra* meaning **anger**.

Either way, it's not looking good Scerris.

9. Calleja - You're either a descendant of the *kalleyias*, making you a farmer, or from the *kallas* meaning good and sweet. Alternatively you're both, making you a cute farmer.

RAS IL-BNIEDEM FIHA ĦAFNA IMBARAZZ

skutella mad-dawra basla max-xagħar ħabba fl-għajnejn tanbur ġol-widnejn ħajta taħt l-ilsien qanpiena fil-gerżuma kappell fuq l-għajnejn u, biex iżżejjen, warda fuq il-wiċċ

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10. Buhagiar - Congrats! You're the proud **father of a bunch of rocks** - just combine *abu* (Arabic for father) and *hadjar* (rocks).

11. Zahra

You're either **shiny**, or the beautiful **white blossom of an orange tree**. Either way, you're lucky (check out poor Scerri if you don't believe us).

12. Zerafa

You'd better hope you're a tall Zerafa or the irony of your surname will never wash away. *Zarafah* means **giraffe**. There is some hope, it may have come from *zarifa*, meaning **graceful**.

There you have it! Let us know if you want to see any more surnames, and make sure you follow Kelma Kelma for more fun and interesting facts about the Maltese language.

Facebook.com/kelma.kelma.mt

'SECTRET' SNAILS RECIPE - IL-BEBBUX MALTI



Snails, in Maltese called 'bebbux'. There are many different snails crawling around, but the one picked for eating is the one called 'Ghakruxu'. The colour of it's shell, and the specific markings, distinguish it from the rest. Dark brown and light brown stripes. The white snails, called 'moghoz', which means goats, are not usually used for cooking. However in Sicily I have seen them for sale at the market in Syracuse, and they are cooked and eaten.

In Malta and Gozo snails are typically consumed during Lent and on Good Friday. Meat is not eaten, fish is too expensive, so snails are classified as an in-between. It is very typical to find them for sale at the green grocer. They hang them in orange nets and you buy them in bunches. Again, in Gozo, this is very unusual. The reason is that we eat less snails than our fellow 'islanders' in Malta. And we pick our own snails. The first pick, and most exciting one, is the one after the Summer. The first rain that hits the island, usually is a two day long thunderstorm that washes clean the Summer dust. I can remember swimming whilst it's raining in late August or September, then running in the valley close to home, jumping in the puddles and foraging for snails that have been awakened by the first waters. The smell of the rain hitting the hot soil after a Summer of basking....is one of my favourite smells in the world ever.

If you are picking your own snails, make sure you have a net, small enough for them not to escape and big enough for them to still breathe. And please! DO NOT overturn rubble walls. Just pick the ones crawling about...it will be more than enough. The picking frenzy, at times, leaves overturned walls looking sorry for themselves, with no one responsible of course. And it not only makes our countryside look terrible, but does not respect the hard work put into building them and the farmers working the fields. Foraging and respecting your surroundings is a balance best kept for everyone's sake.

Snails need to be purged. The traditional Maltese way do it, is to simply starve them. Yes, let them hang in nets for a few days, preferably a week or even more. They will just sleep not die. During the 'cleansing' days, some also like to feed the snails with dry pasta (spaghetti) or cornmeal. Some give them lettuce and cucumbers. But i guess it all depends on your own culture and methods.

And did you know? In Japan, a spa launched an unusual treatment based on snails! The treatment involves live snails crawling all over the client's face. The mollusks leave a mucus trail that seems to be the key to this special facial. According to the media, the mucus contains a beauty-boosting cocktail of



proteins, antioxidants and hyaluronic acid. All these help the skin to retain moisture, reduce inflammation and remove dead skin. If anyone has tried it, please... let me know. I might give it a try in a few years time! Maybe....

Again, there is a big rivalry between a few members of the family from my father's side. Who holds 'the' secret for cooking snails? Who has the best recipe? Who can make the best stew? Aiaiaiaiai.... hot family competition strikes! Well, my Aunt Margaret and my Uncle Albert are the top two contenders on the list at the moment. And... even though, i am giving my Aunt Margaret's recipe, this dinner was beautifully executed by Uncle Albert. And i must say..... full marks go to him.

Bertu, as we call him, made a huge pot of stewed snails and a large dish of garlic butter ones. After boiling them, he cooled them, then filled them with garlic butter and topped them with herb breadcrumbs. Baked them in a hot oven until golden. My father (on the left) only helped to carry them to the table this time!

They argue and compete and I, smiling, benefit from it all!

Claire Borg



F'Jum il-mewt ta' Frank (Ċikku) fl-Awstralja 23-07-2017

Mill-Awstralja l-aħbar waslet Illi Ċikku kien ħalliena – Meta l-minġell tal-mewt jgħaddi Lil ħadd ma jġib l-ebda ħniena.

Lejn 'Down under' hu kien telaq -Kien ghad mank ghandu sbatax, Mar ifittex il-fortuna U ibahhar ma bazax!

Kien it-tielet fost seba' aħwa Illi dlonk telaq mid-dar, Le ma qagħad iħares lura Kien deċiż; dak li sar, sar!

Sittin sena w xi ftit iktar Qatta' f'dak il-kontinent; Hadem biex rabba familja Ma waqafx langas mument!

Issa mar u telaq kollox Warajh halla tliet ulied – Charlie, Jayney, ma' dawn Anthony B'ghożża rabba, bla xejn fsied.

U flimkien ma' martu Carmen Ghexu hajja eżemplari Maghqudin taht saqaf wiehed – Illum saret haġa rari!

Ghadda hajtu fuq l-isteering Sabiex jitma lill-familja B'hekk il-hobża qatt ma tonqos U kulhadd bilmod jirpilja! Lil gżiritna qatt ma nsiha Fostna ġie xi tmien darbiet; Għaliex dik it-tajra għaqlija Qatt ma tinsa fejn trabbiet!

Hawnhekk kien isib lil hutu Li maghhom jghaddi l-hin Jidhku, jieklu, jiddevertu Fl-hena w il-ferh ta' xuxlin.

Fil-ħin tal-mistrieħ li kellu Erħilu jiġri għall-fniek Ma' uliedu għal xi papra Jaqbżu ġebel jew xi xriek!

Ċikku issa min hawn bewweġ Biex jiltaqa' mal-Ħallieq Li għalih kien jiġi l-ewwel – Il-verita' il-ħajja, it-triq!

Minn ta' l-ewwel il-Ḥadd jaħseb Sabiex jisma' l-quddies, Quddiem l-Assunta jintasab Illi lilha ħabb bla qies!

U kuljum kien isellmilha B'dawk il-posti tar-Rużarju Din il-Omm Addolorata -Ir-Reġina tal-Kalvarju.

Żgur li ma marx b'idejh vojta Quddiem is-Sid tal-Ħolqien Għaliex sakemm dam hawn isfel Minn tiegħu tah ħafna żmien! W għalhekk issa Sinjur Alla Lil Cikku ħu dlonk f'idejk Berraħlu bibien is-Sema U fil-Ġenna qiegħdu ħdejk!

Ta' insara illi aħna Ej nitolbu għall-mejtin Biex lil Cikku, is-Sid ta' kollox Idaħħlu mal-Qaddisin!

Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Ghawdex

MEET MOIRA ZAHRA from EDINBURGH SCOTLAND

Hi, I draw people, stories, moments. Look at my new book.......



I co-authored and co-illustrated a book in Maltese about the many expressions of love

Mamà, allura din imħabba?

ta' Moira Scicluna Zahra and Mark Scicluna

Pubblikatur : Merlin Paġni : 32 Prezz: € 5.95 http://www.moirazahra.com/



Ktieb bl-istampi li jintroduċi forom

diversi ta' familji u ta' mħabba - Mamà, xi tfisser il-kelma "mħabba"? Oliver qed iħares madwaru u jara l-imħabba fil-forom kollha tagħha. Jara diversi tipi ta' mħabba bejn in-nies li jiltaqa' magħhom matul il-jum ... u anki d-dar, bejn iż-żewġ ommijiet tiegħu. Proġett kofinanzjat mill-Aġenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litteriżmu tal-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u x-Xogħol

I'm an artist / illustrator / designer with a background in Higher Education tuition. My visual style is inspired by classic fashion illustration but with a playful, quirky approach. I often play with social narratives, storytelling and characters through the observation of everyday life and a healthy amount of people-watching. My illustrations are published in over 20 children's books, in several magazines and online articles. My clients include: Campbell Grey Hotels, Malta National Book Council, Malta Gaming Authority, Malta National Literacy Agency, Deloitte, VFGroup. Agencies that I've collaborated with: Ogilvy, Steves&Co, Projet Noir.



First Maltese Saint

Saint George Preca 1880-1962 - Diocesan Priest and Carmelite Tertiary - Founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine in Malta 1907

In his homily on the occasion of the canonisation of Fr George Preca, Pope Benedict XVI on 3 June 2007 said: Fr George Preca was "A friend of Christ and a witness of his holiness, moulded by him ..., born in Valletta on the island of Malta. As a priest he dedicated himself entirely to evangelisation: through preaching, writing, catechesis, the administration of the sacraments but first and

foremost through the example of his way of life. The expression from St John's Gospel, "Verbum caro factum est" guided his soul and his every action, thus the Lord through him was able to bring a great work to fruition, the "Society of Christian Doctrine", which aims to ensure Parishes the service of qualified, well prepared and generous catechists. A profoundly mystic and priestly soul, he gave himself over to the love of God, Jesus and the Virgin Mary. He would often repeat "My Lord God, how greatly I am indebted to you! Thank you My Lord God and Forgive Me!. Saint George Preca may you help the Church in Malta and the entire world to be the faithful echo of Christ's voice the Word made flesh".

SAINT GEORGE PRECA and the SOCIETY of CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (MUSEUM)

Saint George Preca, the Founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine, entrusted to the laity, through prayer and formation, the divine command to teach the Gospel to all nations. He left a legacy in the Society of Christian Doctrine, founded in 1907, an Apostolic Society of Men and Women, who are dedicated to catechesis. (Thanks to George Brimmer- Victoria)



CAN CATHOLICS STILL CREATE GREAT ART? ONE MAN IS SHOWING THE WAY

by Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith (Photograph courtesy of Alessandra Dee Crespo)

Maltese artist Manuel Farrugia shows we shouldn't write off Catholic art just yet

The quality of religious art has long been a matter of concern to this magazine. Once the art of the Catholic Church – and that includes sculpture, painting, architecture and music – was the best in the world; nowadays, not so much. Indeed, remembering that this is the Church of Bernini, Michelangelo and Palestrina, it is only right that we should lament the poor quality of much contemporary art that has found its way into the Catholic milieu and ask ourselves, how did it come to this?

One answer, which is hardly a comfortable one, goes like this: art requires inspiration. The artists of the Counter-Reformation period were deeply inspired by their faith in God and their faith in the mission of the Church; hence they produced great works. In our own period, religion has failed to inspire, with a few exceptions. So, it is not that there is no talent around, it is rather that the talent there is not drawn to religion. So, we religious people need to get out there and stir up some religious fervour.

Another answer that is sometimes given is that there is good art out there, but we are too blinded by the glories of the past to see it. In other words, because we are wedded to the past, we want contemporary artists who produce works like Bernini's, that is to say, we want pastiche, we do not want modern, challenging and contemporary works.

I am by no means sure about this argument, though I think that refuting it might take a book rather than a short article like this one. But the truth seems to me to be as follows: artists such as Tracey Emin tend to work in a direction that has nothing to do with religion, simply because they are not drawn to communicating beauty. There is nothing wrong with this per se, and I think Emin is an important social commentator; it is just that she has nothing to say about God, but rather speaks of a world without God. The same goes for many of her contemporaries.

But why can't contemporary artists express beauty in the way that the Catholic tradition did, without falling into the dreaded pastiche? Perhaps I betray my absolute ignorance here, but there seems to me no reason why contemporary artists shouldn't produce something as good as the work of, let us say, Guido Reni. Some years ago, I wrote about John Nava's tapestries in the Cathedral of Los Angeles which struck me as being in the great tradition of Guido. Much to my surprise, this drew a furious response from one reader who dismissed any reverence for Guido and asserted that instead, we should all be painting icons – in other words, we should turn to any tradition but our own. However, I still think Guido the best and I still think the Los Angeles tapestries are wonderful.

I was recently reminded on my visit to Malta that there is no reason to write off the Catholic tradition just yet. This altar piece was painted just a few years ago. [see below] It is the work of a young Maltese artist called Manuel Farrugia and can be found in the parish church of Marsaxlokk. There are other pictures of his in the parish Church of Paola, also in Malta. Mr Farrugia does not seem to have a website, but you can look at some of his pictures via his Facebook profile. I love them, and I think they prove that academic painting is not dead, and should not be dismissed as pastiche.

Two last points which are of vital importance. As in Los Angeles with John Nava's tapestries, so on a smaller scale in Malta – the clergy have got to commission such works and be free to do so. And finally, as Mr Farrugia himself says: "I believe that if I was not a religious person, I would not have put so much dedication in this work." Only great religious fervour will produce great religious art.



Dacoutros family donate over 50 artefacts to the Malta Maritime Museum

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John Dacoutros has presented a substantial number of artefacts from his personal collection of the Dacoutros family to the Malta Maritime Museum.

The donation contains over 50 artefacts pertaining to the wine trade and shipping in Malta in the early 20th century. The donation includes various wooden barrels, copper lanterns, and numerous ship paraphernalia but amongst the most important is the model of the Maria Dacutros.

The built up wooden model represents the barquentine Maria Dacutros popularly known as Maria. The vessel was built in 1920 at Castellamare di Stabia in Italy as a double-hulled wine tanker. In 1943 she was fitted with a Kelvin diesel motor that was manufactured by Bergins Co Ltd of Glasgow in 1939. The Maria sailed on average at 5 knots per hour but could make more than 10 knots with engine and moderate wind. She was 34.95 meters long and could carry 209.8 tons of wine on each trip.

The barquentine previously called Gesú & Maria was bought on 15 July 1919 by Spiridione



Dacuotros from Charles Ellul Sullivan for the sum of 920 Sterling. After WWII the vessel served as a training unit for many port managers of the government and dispatched mail to Sicily. According to Lloyds of London the Maria was the largest and last remaining wine tanker of its kind in the world

The barquentine previously called Gesú & Maria was bought on 15 July 1919 by Spiridione Dacuotros from Charles Ellul Sullivan for the sum of 920 Sterling. After WWII the vessel served as a training unit for many port managers of the government and dispatched mail to Sicily.

According to Lloyds of London the Maria was the largest and last remaining wine tanker of its kind in the world. On 28 April 1952 she was lost in heavy seas at Cape Zevgasi near Limassol Cyprus. The Maria was the pride of the fleet pertaining to the Dacoutros family.

"The Dacoutros were one of the largest ship owners and wine importers for decades in the 20th century. The objects help us understand a relatively unknown part of Malta's recent history - that of the wine trade - and Malta's connection with its Greek neighbours to the east," Heritage Malta said.

John Dacoutros presented his donation this morning to the CEO of Heritage Malta, Kenneth Gambin, in the presence of Senior Curator, Emmanuel Magro Conti, and Principal Curator, Liam Gauci.

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THOSE LIVING IN MALTA AND GOZO AND THOSE LIVING ABROAD

The Editor