



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

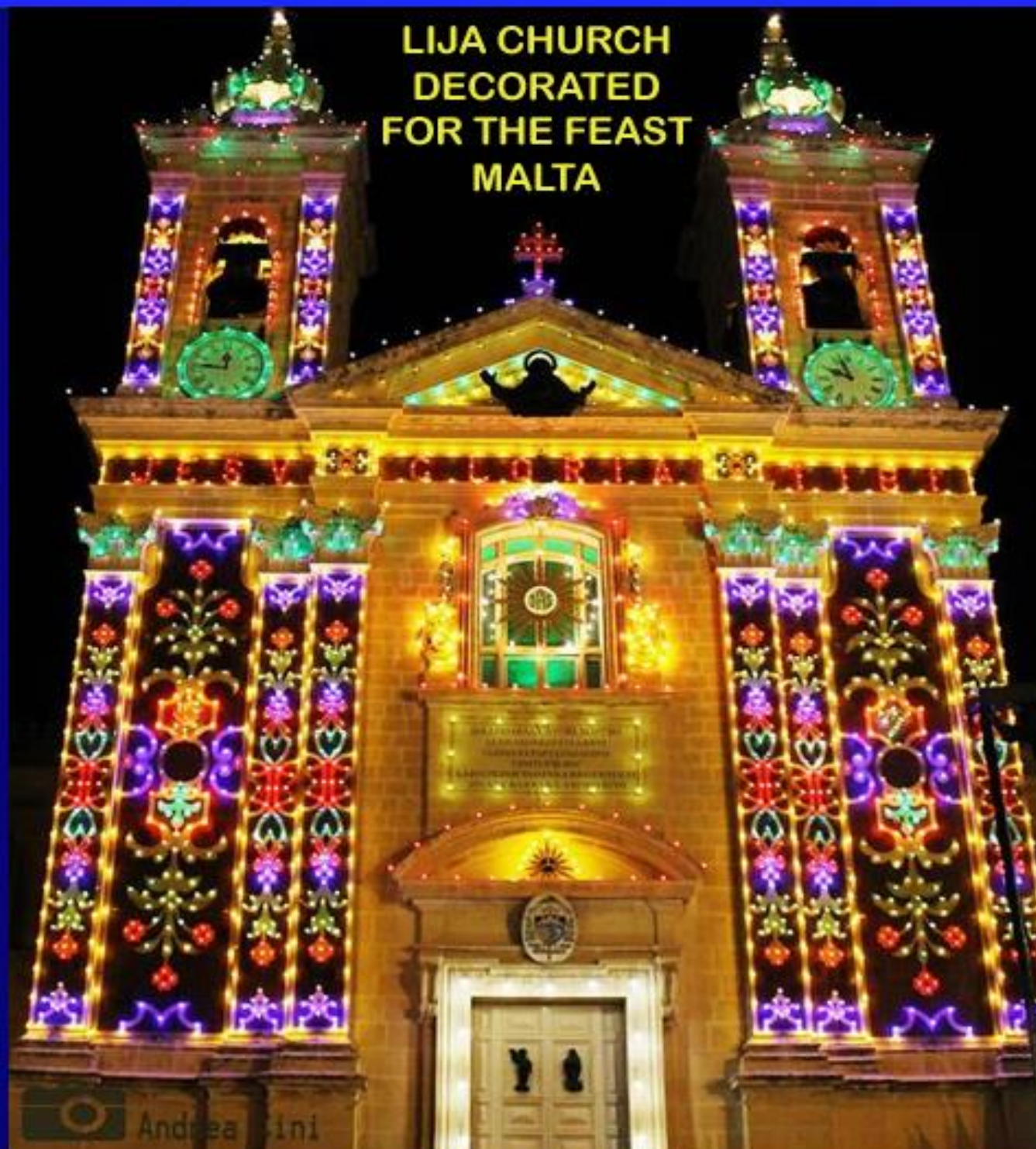
EDITOR - FRANK L SCICLUNA

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THE GEM OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

LIJA CHURCH DECORATED FOR THE FEAST MALTA



MALTESE VILLAGE FEAST

A burst of colour, music and bright fireworks illuminate the Maltese Summer nights providing visitors with a most memorable experience .

Traditional Maltese Feasts



During summer, there's at least a couple of festas every weekend. The traditional feasts of the saints remain an integral part of the life of the Church and of the culture of the Maltese Islands.

The festa is the main social event in the village throughout the year. Festa week is the outcome of months of hard work by volunteers. The week-long festivities celebrate the parish patron saint. On the day of the feast, the statue of the patron saint is carried on shoulders to the accompaniment of brass bands as it goes around the village streets in a procession.

The celebrations themselves include magnificent firework displays, for which the Maltese Islands are well known, brass band music and street life. Band music is one of the most popular traditions on the Islands. Every town and village has at least one, usually two band clubs. Traditional festa snacks include the rich, colourful nougat.



Under the summer skies, families meet in the central village square to chat and catch up on local news. The village feast is basically the opportunity for all families to get together and above all it is the perfect occasion for visitors to experience Maltese village life.

One of the major festas is The Assumption of Our Lady which takes place on the 15th of August, and catches the attention of colonial Maltese from all over the world. Another best known of all Maltese feast is Our Lady of Victories held on the 8th September, celebrating the defeat of the Turks at the end of Great Siege of 1565 which coincides also with the end of Blitz in Malta and with the feast of the Birth of the Virgin. The highlight of this great day is the Regatta (boat race) held in the Grand Harbour.

Undoubtedly, the village feast is one of the island's most visual cultural festivities, and various aspects of such celebration would appeal, from food stands selling traditional Maltese nougat to the spectacular exhibition of powerful set-piece fireworks. The entire village will be decorated with banners and other buildings such as the band clubs will also be lavishly decorated. The village houses are decorated too, with flags and brightly coloured banners whilst all the streets are brightly lit while the band marches through them during the week, followed by crowds of people enjoying the surroundings and music.

But the attraction is the church with luxurious red damask inside and hundreds of coloured lights decorating outside. On the feast day itself, there is more of a religious feeling as the statue of the patron saint is carried shoulder-high by villagers through the streets, whilst the gathering crowds, mostly children, throw confetti from their balconies and roofs. On the night, musicians and singers are united in the village square to perform an outdoor concert on the statue's way in to the parish church.

A lot of cautious preparation is held throughout the year, to get things set for the festa week whilst the events are very much of a spiritual nature. Hotels and local tour operators often arrange evening excursions to the main village festas.

www.heartofmalta.com



Rivalry at the Regatta



by *Liz Ayling*

The 8th September is known as Victory Day in Malta. It's a catch-all day because this particular public holiday has several roots, not one clear-cut *raison d'être* for celebration: it marks the end

of the Great Siege in 1565 and the end of French occupation on Malta in 1800, as well as the armistice of the Fascist regime in Italy in 1943 which saw the close of the Italian bombardment of the Islands.

Just to add to this medley of historic celebratory dates, we can include a parish feast day (*festa*) as some four localities celebrate the feast of Our Lady as a Child (*Maria Bambina/Our Lady of Victory*). To help coordinate things here a little, the religious feast conveniently changed its age-old name to the feast of 'Il-Madonna tal-Vitorja' in a mix of history and religious fervour following the end of the Great Siege of 1565 and the end of World War 2.

But who cares about the history and religious history when you've the Regatta!

The 8th September is synonymous in most locals' minds with the battle of the Grand Harbour oarsmen as they pitch brawn (and brain, in tactics and staying power) in the ritual *Dhajsa* rowing competitions.

Teams from Valletta, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Kalkara, Cospicua Marsaxlokk and Marsa have been practising for months to ensure they make a fighting attempt to win the Regatta. The link with all the historic celebratory reasons above? Well, there's the fighting spirit (reminiscent of the Great Siege) and the zeal and passion (similar to the levels that go into parish *festas*).

So, while some reasons for public holidays can be mundane or irrelevant to today's society, at least 8th September has a bit more panache than most. And it's still a day of victory for some.



READ, ENJOY AND SHARE
THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Maltese Pulpetti (Corned Beef Croquettes)

Adapted from Nanna <http://nannascookbook.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/maltese-pulpetti-corned-beef-croquettes.html>



The first time I ever had corned beef pulpetti was as a teenager. We had arrived at Nanna's house late at night, tired from our 4-hour journey. It was gross and rainy outside, making her kitchen seem warmer and cozier than usual. Nanna was busily alternating between forming little patties and then frying them gently in her electric griddle. We all gathered around Nanna as she worked, devouring the little potato and meat cakes as soon as they came out of the fryer.

Nannu was on the couch, snoring by then, as the TV droned on in the background, but the rest of us continued to eat right where we stood, relieved to not be cooped up in the car and happy to be together again with good food warming our bellies.

I don't think I had ever had a croquette of any kind before this, but I instantly fell in love. What's not to love when you fry mashed potatoes though? Besides corned beef, pulpetti is often made with tuna, ground beef, or ground pork. Sometimes diced hard boiled eggs are included as well. I've seen some recipes call for breadcrumbs or a combination of milk and bread instead of the potatoes. Pulpetti is one of those dishes that you can easily adapt based on what you have available in your pantry and your own personal preferences; however, I am sure every Maltese family has their own favorite way to make them, most likely the way *their* Nanna did. Pulpetti can be made with many other kinds of meat if you're not a fan of corned beef. Some traditional alternatives: tuna, ground pork, ground beef, and hard boiled eggs.

Yield: 24 medium (1 1/2 inches) sized patties **Total Time:** 1 hour

3 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 4 cups)
 1 medium onion, grated or finely diced
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
 2 eggs, beaten
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, freshly ground
 2-3 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, chopped
 1 can of corned beef
 1/2 cup Semolina flour or seasoned bread crumbs
 Vegetable oil for frying

Bring a large pot of heavily salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain the potatoes and place them in a large work bowl. Mash the potatoes; add onions, garlic, cheese, eggs, pepper, and parsley; stir to combine. Work in the corned beef until well incorporated. Shape into balls and flatten slightly into round patties. Roll in semolina flour.

Place a heavy-bottomed frying pan over medium heat. Add a small amount of vegetable oil, enough to coat the bottom. Once the oil is hot, work in small batches, making sure not to crowd the pan. Allow the patties to fry for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until they are golden brown. Handle the patties carefully, as they are delicate. Allow patties to drain on paper towels before transferring to a serving platter. Serve hot with marinara sauce for dipping.

8 Famous International People With Maltese Heritage



By IHG 2017 Intercontinental Malta

We Maltese are a very proud nation – we have amazingly talented artists who are locally based, and we also have many talented artists who have left our shores in the pursuit of an international career – but did you know that some of the biggest names in Hollywood today can trace back their Maltese heritage? Here are 8 artists and scholars with a surprising Maltese background.

FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE WITH MALTESE HERITAGE

With strong international links and a population that's thirsty for growth, it's no surprise that many Maltese people tend to leave the islands and try to make it big outside of our little island nation – a couple of years pass, families settle down, and eventually it's only a matter of time before a star is born.

BRYAN ADAMS - The Canadian superstar has roots in Malta, with his maternal grandmother coming from Malta – most likely from the town of Floriana.

BRITNEY SPEARS - And Jamie Lynne, and the entire Spears clan for that matter, who's maternal great-great-grandfather was Edward Portelli. The name sounds familiar right? That's right – Britney is at least 1/8th Maltese!

JOSEPH CALLEIA - No, there isn't a spelling mistake there, and we're not referring to Joseph Calleja the beloved Maltese operatic tenor, but Joseph Alexander Caesar Herstatt Vincent Calleja – more widely known as Joseph Calleia, one of Hollywood's most recognised villains from the classic period. His acting career span from 1931, with his first performance in *My Sin* and with his last performance in 1963's *Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre*.

MIRIAM GAUCI - Famous classical musician Miriam Gauci was born in Malta but moved to Milan to explore a career as an operatic soprano. She made her debut as a professional operatic soprano in Bologna in 1984 when she took part in Francis Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* – and the rest is history!



EDWARD DE BONO - Revered author, physician and psychologist Edward De Bono is best known for his work in *lateral thinking* – a way of thinking that solves problems in a creative and indirect approach. De Bono is lauded as one of the most creative minds of the 21st century, having published 57 books.

MARIO PHILIP AZZOPARDI - Acclaimed director Mario Philip Azzopardi may be well known locally as the founder of *Stagun Teatru Malti* – who's production company is responsible for the well-known play *Jiena Nħobb Inti Thobb* and *In-Nisa Maltin Jafu Kif*, but this Senglea-born director made waves abroad when he emigrated to Canada and directed several hits – including the 2008, award winning HBO Canada/TMN miniseries *ZOS: Zone of Separation*.

ANDY PARTRIDGE - Founding member and guitarist of rock band XTC, this legendary British Rockstar was originally born in – you guessed it – Malta. Specifically the village of Mtarfa.

PAUL TISDALE - The current manager of League Two club Exeter City and former professional football player may currently be living in the UK – but he started out in the Maltese capital of Valletta.

IN CONCLUSION

So there you have it dear readers – we may be a small island nation, but we produce big talent. Many internationally acclaimed people have Maltese heritage – and it is something to be proud of.

That's not to say, of course, that there aren't a good number of local talent who are making waves nationally.

IN OUR MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER WE ALWAYS HIGHLIGHT STORIES ABOUT MALTESE WHO ARE MAKING A GOOD NAME TO OUR ISLANDS. Please, send us your story or of someone you know. We will, at a later date, collect and collate a catalogue of all famous people of Maltese descent which appear on our journal. The Editor



HISTORICAL EPISODE -

1799 - Dun Mikiel Xerri, Maltese patriot

(Thanks to Jonathan Shipley of [A Writer's Desk](#) for the guest post. -ed.)

That Napoleon Bonaparte, he simply can't leave well enough alone. He already conquered Malta. Most of the Maltese were even okay with it. But then he started disassembling the Maltese nobility and restricting the church. This displeased [Dun Mikiel Xerri](#), and it was on this date in 1799 that Xerri was shot dead for spearheading a Maltese revolt against the French.

Born on September 29, 1737 in Zebbug, Malta, Xerri studied as a young man at various universities throughout Europe. Learned, he became a Roman Catholic priest and dabbled in both philosophy and mathematics, living warmly under the rule of The Knights of St. John. Then, Napoleon came.

It was 1798 and Napoleon's fleet was traveling to Egypt on expedition. Napoleon asked for safe harbor on Malta to resupply his ships. The Maltese refused him water and so Napoleon ordered a division of troops up to Valletta, the Maltese capital city. Ferdinand von Hompesch au Bolheim, the 71st Grand Master of the Order of St. John, thought again on his stance on the water issue but Napoleon was already beginning to be entrenched in Maltese life, looting the Order's assets and administering control. Not wanting to fight fellow Christians (the French), Hompesch did little to quell the influx of French soldiers. In fact, he quickly signed a treaty handing over sovereignty of the Island of Malta to the French Republic.

This initially pleased some Maltese, tired of Knight rule, but the honeymoon didn't last long.



Xerri, and many others, believed a revolt was the only way to regain people's rights due to the fact that the rights of Maltese nobility were figuratively stripped, and the treasures of the Maltese church literally so.

Outraged Maltese rose against the French garrison headquartered in Notabile. Outraged Maltese formed a National Assembly. Outraged Maltese raised open rebellion on the islands.

The French retreated to the fortified cities around the harbor where their ships were anchored. The Maltese, in arms, implored the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (run by King Ferdinand I) and Great Britain (then under the rule of King George III).

It was to no avail. During the blockades, hundreds of people, Maltese and French alike, died from starvation and deprivation. Desperate, within the fortress, Xerri the patriot and others decided to attack French forces in Valletta and Cottonera. The plot, however, was discovered by the French and before it could be executed, 49 people were arrested for the plotted insurrection, Xerri among them.

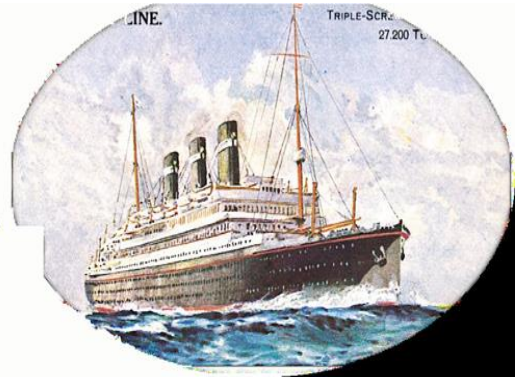
The archbishop of Malta, Vincenzo Labini, met with Xerri and Xerri's companions the morning of January 17, 1799. Prayers were offered, quiet words of salvation exchanged. Xerri was taken from Fort Saint Elmo to the Palace Square. French troops awaited him. Xerri, moments from death, gave a silver watch to the official on duty. He asked to be shot through the heart. "May God have pity on us!" he shouted with the others. "Long live Malta!" He was then shot dead, taken away, and buried near the Church of Saint Publius in Floriana. Malta did not gain its independence until September 21, 1964.



WE LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF OUR FAMILY

Journey To The Unknown

BY RON BORG - ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA



This is an account of what most Maltese migrants did when they decided to emigrate from their homeland Malta and travelled by ship some 16,000 kms to Australia, the land of the Kangaroo.

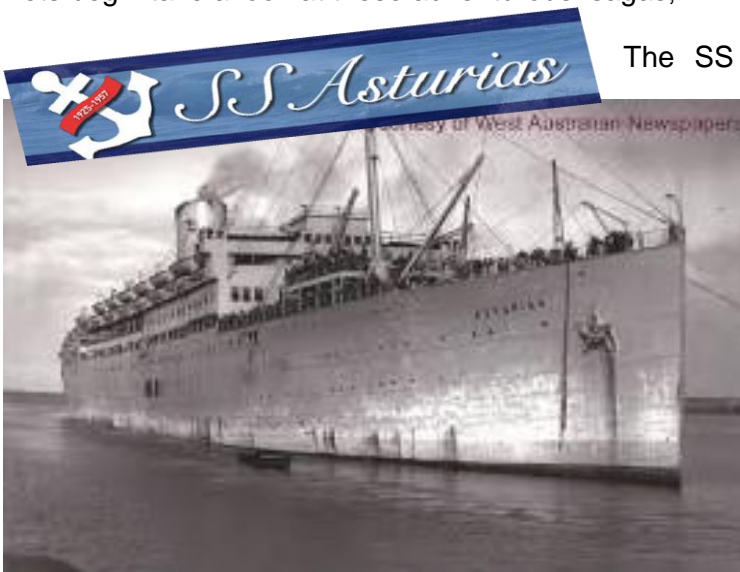
"A Journey into the Unknown !"

The first Maltese to arrive in Australia were convicts, transported in the 1810s for deserting their British regiments, when Malta was British colony. The first free settler, Antonio Azzopardi, arrived in Melbourne in 1837. In 1948 an assisted passage agreement was signed with Malta, which resulted in large numbers of arrivals, peaking in the 1950s, when ten thousand Maltese had settled in Australia by 1954. In 1981 the Census recorded Fifty Seven Thousand Malta born people living in Australia.

In this series, "Journey to the Unknown", I am focusing on the Ships and their passenger Maltese migrants who came to Australia, but specifically those who settled in South Australia.

There are many accounts about these sea voyages which relate memories of these experiences as conveyed to me by the very people that have been through them, some tell of hardships, anxieties, unusual experiences, tragedies, and yes, even comic mishaps!

Lets begin take a look at these adventurous sagas;



The SS ASTURIAS was built in 1926 as an armed merchant cruiser to carry troops in 1939 and was badly damaged by an Italian torpedo.

One of the passengers voyaging on this ship in December 1950 was **Carmelo (Charlie) Baldacchino**. Although travelling by himself, he recollects that some of the fellow Maltese migrants bound for South Australia were, **Salvu Farrugia, John Baldacchino, and Gejtu Grech**.

Besides Maltese migrants the passengers mainly consisted of Polish and English passengers. One of the sad events that occurred on the voyage was that of one of the Maltese migrants that fell ill, and was admitted to the ship's hospital, but unfortunately died and

was buried at sea.

Also on voyaging on the **SS Asturias**, but in September 1952, was **Joe Monsigneur**. Joe travelled by himself on this journey but he said that he soon made some friends with fellow Maltese from his beloved town of Sliema. Other Maltese that were also on board were, **Tony Azzopardi, John Mula, Edward Seale, and Joseph Vella**. The highlight of the voyage to Australia was on the 8th September, when the Maltese Migrants celebrated the Malta National Day, with co-operation from the ship's captain and Tony Azzopardi's assistance.



**Charlie
Baldacchino**



**Joe
Monsigneur**



The Maltese Migrants on the ship with the banner made from Joe's Pillow case!

It is an interesting fact that all the Maltese migrants on that journey were all males!

The Asturias docked in Port Melbourne on the 21st September 1952, and Joe continued his journey to Adelaide by train.

This Series "Journey To The Unknown" will continue in the next Newsletter



Ceiling collapses in one of Malta's oldest churches

Photo Matthew Mirabelli

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. The church, completed in 1500 and dedicated to the mother of Jesus, is run by Franciscan Friars who made the grim discovery Wednesday when they

opened the building for Mass. (The Malta Independent via AP)

Patrijiet Frangiskani-Rabat
FOND TA' EMERGENZA
Għal donazzjonijiet bl-internet
IBAN - BOV A/C
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Franciscan St. Mary of Jesus A/C

More

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Malta officials are trying to determine what caused the ceiling of one of the country's oldest churches to collapse.

No one was injured when wooden beams and other debris collapsed onto the marble altar of the Ta'Giezu church in Rabat.

The church, completed in 1500 and dedicated to the mother of Jesus, is run by Franciscan Friars who made the discovery Wednesday when they opened the building for Mass.

Franciscan Prior the Rev. Martin Coleiro said the church underwent restorations last year, but said

the ceiling wasn't involved.

The church is a tourist draw particularly around Easter time. The Franciscan Friary was the first to hold a Good Friday procession in Malta in the early 16th century, and the Friary boasts of the oldest Good Friday statues still in use.

Do you remember the Immigrant Ships?

The 'boat people' of the forties and fifties

Part 1



by Graeme Andrews

Orient Lines' Ormonde 1917-1952 was the first ship to arrive in Sydney with displaced persons – or DPs as they were called. GKAC.

Australia is a land of immigrants. Lest those claiming indigenous genes disagree, it is generally agreed that our aboriginal Australians derive from the Indo-Malay archipelago, no doubt by some means of maritime transport – modest though it may have been. More recently a wave of Europeans arrived by sea as a result of a great ship lift that took place during the late 1940s and 1950s. Post World

War II many hundreds of thousands of Europeans were displaced as the shattered economies of those countries could not support the return of so many hungry mouths.

Elsewhere the economies of the New World and also of South America and Australasia needed people. First choice was America and as early as 1947 migrants were flooding across the Atlantic. The US Army had many purpose-built troop ships which could easily accommodate the desperate flood but real passenger liners were in short supply. Both sides had made great efforts to sink such ships and of the 350-odd large passenger ships that worked in 1939 there were fewer than 200 still afloat and they were not always in good order.

Australia was an attractive destination, as was New Zealand and the British shipping lines were soon offering austerity passages. The first ship to arrive in Australia carrying migrants whose fares were assisted by government – mainly Australian – was the Orient liner Ormonde. Australia urgently needed new infrastructure and had insufficient workers and our answer was immigration. The results changed Australia for the better and along the way we learnt many new social customs and found a much enhanced cuisine!

Shiploads of families were unloaded in Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney with job security and basic accommodation being offered in return for so many years of honest toil. It soon became apparent that what was on offer was often not as good as that which had seemed to be offered but the system worked well enough and there are many third generation 'imports' now making the running in every aspect of Australia.



FUNDRAISING GALA



Lehen Malti
The Maltese Voice

2017



will take place on
Saturday, September 23, 2017
6:00 PM
at the beautiful

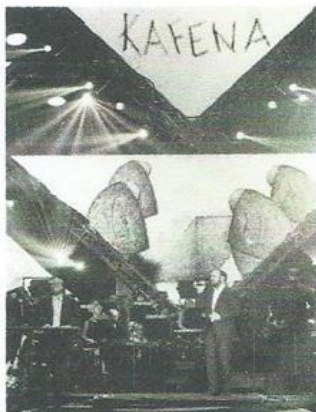
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To reserve and purchase your tickets:
Call 416-571-3944 or Email lehenmalti@hotmail.com

Please help support the Lehen Malti program
All proceeds from this event will go towards production expenses



Maltese Traditional Stuffed Calamari

600g calamari
1 tbsp olive oil
2 onions, chopped
fresh garlic, finely chopped
1 tablespoon Kunserva (tomato paste)
400g can Tomato Pulp
100ml white wine
half a fish stock cube dissolved in 100ml warm water
100g whole black olives with stone
basil, mint, pepper

For the Filling

225g Three Hills Deli Tuna Dip with Anchovies
100g breadcrumbs
parsley and pepper

INSTRUCTIONS:

Clean the calamari and in a bowl, mix together the filling ingredients and stuff the calamari with the mixture, closing them with toothpicks. In a pan, heat the olive oil and gently fry the calamari. Add the chopped onion and garlic, the Three Hills Kunserva, the Mayor Tomato Pulp and the wine and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients and season with pepper to taste. Simmer for around 30 minutes. Tip: When buying calamari, choose the smaller variety as they will be more tender to cook.

Disclaimer

The editor of the Maltese eNewsletter strives to keep information stored on this server up to date, but does not guarantee the accuracy, reliability or currency of the information sent to us. Any errors in the information that are brought to our attention will be corrected as soon as possible. The University reserves the right to change at any time without notice any information sent to us for publication. The opinions of the subscribers is not necessarily those of the editorial team



Lampuki (Dorado fish) The Maltese Islands' favourite fish!

September marks the beginning of the Lampuki season. It is a fish also known as Dorado fish or Mahi Mahi. The migratory fish are found in Maltese waters between the end of August till end of November. The Dolphin fish is known to grow fast in fact local fishermen catch a lot of them weighing 1 kilo to 1.5 kilos so the fish fits nicely on a plate. The lampuka has a beautiful silver and golden colour.

This migratory fish visits the Maltese Islands' waters from the end of August till early December, therefore fishing for this type of fish takes place **between September and November**.

How do Maltese fishermen fish for lampuki?

They weave fronds from palm trees into flat rafts. They then place the rafts on the surface of the sea. What happens is that the lampuka (dorado fish) schools under the rafts because these large rafts provide shade and shelter from the scorching sun. In Maltese, these types of "rafts" are referred to as *kannizzati*.

The fishermen then use nets to catch the dolphin fish. It is believed that this type of fishing method has been in use since ancient Roman times!

The Maltese people are very fond of this type of fish and when in season, you can usually spot many lampuki vendors roaming the streets with small vans. In some old villages you will also come across women with prams selling them! Yes prams ... without the baby of course :)

What they do, is use the pram as a sort of trolley to carry the wooden fish crates on. (The type of prams that they use are usually very old, no longer in use ones). In the old days, women used to put the wooden fish crates on their heads and hit the streets to sell them.

The lampuka grows really fast but the local fishermen usually aim to catch it when it **weighs from 1 to 1.5 kilos maximum** - just enough to sit nicely on a plate. This fish is a good source of vitamin B12, B6 and B3.

The lampuka is a delicious fish and there's a huge demand for it. So much so, that local fishermen also export their catch to other countries.

Cooking Lampuki

The popular fish in Malta can be cooked in various ways such as:

- The lampuki can be shallow-fried in slices with spinach, capers, mint and olive oil.
- The lampuki pie can also be done by baking covered in pastry with lampuki, tomato sauce capers, cauliflowers and carrots.
- Lampuki can also be done into a fish soup.

Health Benefits in Lampuki

Here are a few health benefits in consuming Lampuki:

- It is low in fat and mercury making it the healthier alternative.
- It has an excellent source of protein containing amino acids for survival.
- It contains minerals like Selenium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus that help the immune system fight illnesses and Potassium helps support the heart and muscle functions.
- It also has vitamins B12, B6 and niacin to help support metabolism, nourishing your skin and liver.

Submitted by LBJ



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The magazine that builds bridges between
Maltese all over the world

Every Edition is Precious

READ IT
ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANYHOW
PACKED WITH NEWS
INFORMATION, HISTORY
CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Interesting Facts about Malta

Location - The Maltese Archipelago consists of Malta (the main island), Gozo, Comino and the uninhabited islet of Filfla. The islands are located right at the centre of the Mediterranean sea, south of Sicily.

How big is Malta? - Just 316 square kilometres.

Population 401,880 Although this number may look small, due to its tiny size, the island of Malta is quite densely populated.

Capital - Valletta is the capital of Malta built by the Knights.

Landscape - Low hills with terraced fields all across the islands. There are no mountains or rivers. Coastline consists mainly of harbours, bays, cliffs, sandy and rocky beaches.

Flag - The flag of Malta is a simple red and white flag with

cross in the top left hand corner.

Language - Maltese and English are the official languages. Italian is also widely spoken. If you'd like to learn a few Maltese phrases to use during your Malta holidays, then go to our Learn Maltese pages on Google or Yahoo.

Religion 91% Roman Catholic. There are over 356 churches on the Maltese islands. Many were built in the seventeenth century, making them sights to behold even for non-believers. With their bell towers and domes, the churches are an integral part of the Maltese skyline.



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MALTA MILITARY **TATTOO** 14th-15th OCTOBER 2017

About the 2017 Malta Military Tattoo

<http://www.maltamilitarytattoo.org/>

The Malta Military Tattoo 2017, will be held on the 14th and 15th of October 2017 at the Malta fairs and Conventions Centre (MFCC), Ta' Qali. The Malta Military Tattoo, is a yearly event which features military bands and other elements which come together to provide a spectacular show for audiences of all ages. The music played combines popular tunes, with the more classical and are all performed in the context of a Military March parade to provide a spectacular experience for everyone to enjoy. The music chosen appeals to all ages.

The word has its roots in the Dutch expression "tap toe" or "tap-shut" which meant the closing of inns. This word was linked to the noise made by mallets used to shut the beer barrels. That noise sounded like a drum. Thereafter, the word was used as reference to the last military call at the time of curfews.

The Malta Tattoo is the annual major tourism draw, and is a reflection of Malta's military music heritage. The event has earned a well-deserved reputation for offering its audiences an exciting and vibrant blend of music and performances by a Maltese and international line-up of talent. This unique gathering of performers from various countries continues to be a yearly highlight in the local calendar.

The Maltese are very fond of band music. This is reflected in the fact that in Malta there are 90 active band clubs with a total of 3,931 persons who are resident or trainee band players. With a total band club membership of over 30,000, these form over six per cent of the total population aged 5-84 years.

These figures, even by themselves, show the popularity of band music in Malta. But if taken against a background of about 1,250 band programmes performed yearly within the locality of the band clubs and outside their locality, we get the real feeling of the Maltese population towards band music. On the other hand, the active presence of tourists in band marches and musical programmes indicates that band music is an added value to our tourism product.

The Malta Tattoo is a pleasant conclusion of the Maltese festive season in which band clubs have the lion's share of the entertainment.

History in Brief Malta's military music heritage

During the eighteenth century, drummers could be seen criss-crossing the streets of Dutch villages, beating their drums, telling the soldiers it was time for them to get back to their barracks. The beating rhythm of the drums also signalled the last call for the inn tenders to close for the night. Since that time, the vocal sound changed from "tap toe" to "tattoo". The word was kept through the generations and is now used to announce a large mass military celebration, offered as an evening entertainment.

Today, "Tattoos" are extraordinary entertainment events where hundreds of musicians from many bands share the spotlight in marching routines, military ability and artistic demonstrations. We hope you get a chance to experience the Malta Military Tattoo very soon! For more information visit <http://www.maltamilitarytattoo.org> or www.mfcc.com.mt.

The Maltese eNewsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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Mellieha - Malta

Mellieha, a picturesque town in the North of Malta. **Mellieħa** is a village located in the Northwest part of **Malta**. Mellieħa took its name from the ancient Punic and Roman salt-terms, as Mellieha means salt in Arabic. Mellieha is one of Malta's most attractive tourist and summer resorts with beautiful sandy beaches and blue sea. Mellieha has Malta's largest **sandy beach**, Għadira, which is perfect for families with small children, as the water remains shallow for a considerable distance from the shore. Mellieħa also has a lot of splendid seaside hotels, good restaurants and many traditional souvenir shops. During the summer months the population increases significantly due to many Maltese having **summer residences** in Mellieha, but the all year around inhabitants are around 9250 people in an area of 22.6 km².

According to archaeological discoveries, the town has been inhabited from Neolithic times to the Byzantine era, but the area was deserted after the Arab conquest. It was only during the time of the Knights, that Mellieha was once again inhabited. Mellieha was really **developed under the British** colonization who gave leases to encourage people to settle. Today Mellieha is still popular with **foreign house buyers**. The people of Mellieha are famous for their friendliness and hospitality and most people who visit Mellieha feel welcomed and at home.

Mellieha's main **Village Feast** "Il-Vitorja" is held in the beginning of September and it reaches its peak on 8th September. During this popular feast, the village is full of activities such as musical concerts, fireworks, folk singing, food stands, and exhibitions and of course many **religious processions** in honour of Our Lady of Victories. The Mellieha village feast is a great experience to both tourists and locals.

For tourists choosing to spend their holiday in Mellieha it is worth renting a car, as it is about 20/30 minutes from St Julian's.

Attraction in Mellieha:

Għadira Bay: Easily accessible, this spot is a favourite with families, who tend to stay out for the day. There are sun beds and umbrellas for rent, but there is still space on this wide beach for anyone wishing to bring

their own equipment. There are plenty of snack bars and small cafes and the beach offers different types of water fun, such as pedal boats rental, parasailing or large floating play areas.

Ghadira Natural Reserve: The nature reserve encloses two types of habitat that are very rare in Malta: wetland and salt marsh. The area was declared a bird sanctuary in 1978 after BirdLife Malta presented scientific data to the government showing the ornithological value of the wetland (read more here).

Armier Bay: The sandy beach at Armier stretches around the shore of an open bay and is just a short drive away from Ghadira bay. This sandy bay has a lovely view over the Islands of Comino and Gozo. Bars and small restaurants provide the necessary beach facilities.

Popeye's Village: This popular attraction is the film set of the 1980 film, Popeye. Popeye's Village has daily shows for the tourist as well as rides for the younger children, slides, trampolines and a Lido. <http://www.popeyemalta.com/>

St. Agatha's Tower: This Tower, guarding the bays of Mellieha and Ghajn Tuffieha, is more known as the Red Tower. It was built to act as a signalling post in 1647 for communication with the island of Gozo, so it's natural that it dominates the skyline of Malta's Marfa Ridge. It originally housed cannon, 30 men and enough food to withstand a siege for 40 days (read more here).

White Tower Bay: White Tower Bay is enclosed by a fortification wall that was built by the knights.

Malta became an Independent State and later a Republic

Malta as a new Independent State

In 1947, another constitution was granted to Malta but the people were still unhappy and the Maltese pushed for independence. Malta was finally granted independence on 21st September 1964, after many discussions and negotiations with the United Kingdom by Dr. George Borg Olivier. Under the new constitution Queen Elizabeth II was still head of state with a governor – general exercising executive authority on her behalf.

Independence Day is now commemorated with a national holiday.

Malta as a Republic

Dominic Mintoff led the Malta Labour Party in 1971 and also won the general elections which pushed Malta to become a republic on 13 December 1974. He also weakened the ties with the United Kingdom so that the last British military men left Malta in 1979. In 1980 Malta adopted a policy of neutrality. The Malta Labour Party were running Malta for several years until 1987 when the Nationalist party came to power with Dr. Eddie Fenech Adami as prime minister. In 1989 Malta became a place of a summit between U.S. President George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, during which the two leaders declared the end to the Cold War.

Malta's membership in the European Union



Malta applied to join the European Union in 1990 with the help of the Prime Minister Dr Edward Fenech Adami and the foreign minister Dr. Guido de Marco.

This issue divided the Maltese population in half; and after negotiations and an intensive referendum campaign, Malta joined the EU on the 1st of May 2004. On the 1st January 2008 Malta joined the Eurozone, that is joined the other EU countries that have adopted the euro as their common currency and sole legal tender.





**GIALANZE FAMILY
IN AUSTRALIA
IN 1955**

BACKWARD STEP TO GO FORWARD

We are Maltese from Egypt. My name is Rosa and I am eighty years old. My husband is Ersilio. We have been in Australia for forty-four years. I have six children and am a grandmother of thirteen. We came from Egypt by ship in 1947 - my

husband, myself and two children - a boy aged two and a girl aged one. I was also seven months pregnant.

We had been married for four years. In Egypt, my husband had been in the Air Force. We were going to have to be transferred to a small village far from Alexandria where we lived. We did not want to go there so we applied to emigrate to Australia - thinking we could always go back if we did not like it. For that reason, we needed to keep our money that we had brought with us untouched so that we would have the means to go back if we wanted to.

Our family in Egypt told us that the Arabs were expelling the British so we thought if we had to live abroad, we would live in Australia.

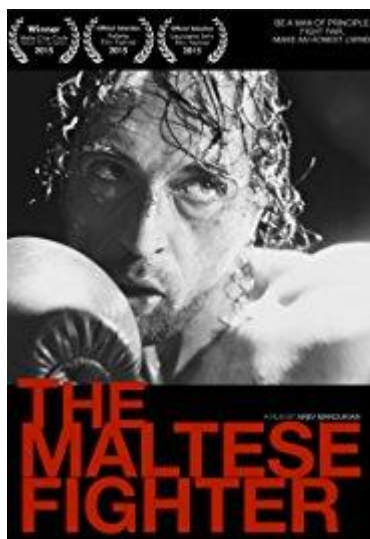
In the first months, we lived in a hotel paying four and a half pounds a week. We were not happy. My husband used to go out looking for Maltese people to ask them if they know of any place we could rent. He found two rooms at the back of a fish 'n' chip shop. These rooms were very dirty and the owners were not the best.

After work my husband used to go to clean up these rooms before we started living there. We stayed there for nine months. I used to sit on my bed and cry, remembering how comfortable I was in Egypt; I came here and lost everything.

One day after Mass, an Italian friend of mine told me there was a house for rent. She also told my husband and together we went to see it. We paid fifty pounds "key money". The house was in very bad condition. Instead of glass, the windows were secured with cardboard and metal sheeting. My husband promised me that he would fix it all up and so he did and it turned out looking good. He worked very hard and by the time we left the house, it even had a hot water system. We lived there for four years.

The Housing Commission offered us a house in Braybrook and we went there. We still live in this same house - thirty years later. We had another four children besides the two we brought with us from Egypt and we are grandparents of thirteen. Our youngest son is ill and is in hospital. The others are all married, are doing well and are happy.

ROSA and ERSILIO GIALANZE



The Maltese Fighter

Participation at the American Film Market, American Film Institute Fest and the Berlinale European Film Market granted access to a wealth of knowledge on international filmmaking practices and how to manage the internationalisation of indigenous film. *The Maltese Fighter*, a Maltese language short film was showcased at various events at the markets while our slate of Maltese films in various development stages were presented and discussed.

Participating at co-production forums allowed for the creation of networks with sales agents, distributors and potential co-producers for the realisation of homegrown film projects. As Malta tries to establish its filmic identity, multi-themed conferences aimed at international filmmakers offered knowledge, as well as mentoring sessions with experienced industry key players. Conferences and workshops included: *The Future of Global Film*

Finance, *The Film Finance Matrix*, *Producing for the Pre-Sales Marketplace*, *Working with Sales Agents* and *The Future of Video on Demand* amongst many other essential tools for international filmmakers.

The Maltese Fighter participation was made possible thanks to Arts Council Malta's Cultural Export Fund -Presentation and Touring Grant.

The Maltese Fighter, a short film in Maltese produced by MaltaFilm, a local production company and Spy Films (Toronto) was selected to form part of the Louisiana Film Festival 2015 in early May. The film is a fictional story based on a father-son relationship caught in the political violence and social unrest of 1970s Malta. Protagonist, Carmelo (Malcolm Ellul), a struggling single father and boxer from Valletta, is forced to join a corrupt underworld as he tries to provide for his only son Giuseppe.

Months of hard work and preparation culminated in shooting the film across the island, using Valletta as the backdrop, giving a distinctly Maltese texture to the story. The film is supported by the Malta Film Fund, Movie People Malta and River Dream.

The film is directed by up-and-coming and noted Canadian director Arev Manoukian, and produced by Joshua Cassar Gaspar and Carlo Trulli. The screenplay is written by Monika Maslowska, while the Director of Photography is a Maltese London-based cinematographer, Matthew Emvin Taylor. The story attracted production giants, Spy Films, who co-produced it and are best known for producing Neil Blomkamp's first film *Alive in Joburg*, which was later developed into box office hit *District 9* by Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson.





A LETTER FROM THE HON. JING LEE MLA

I trust this letter finds you well as we welcome the second half of 2017. I take this opportunity to thank you for

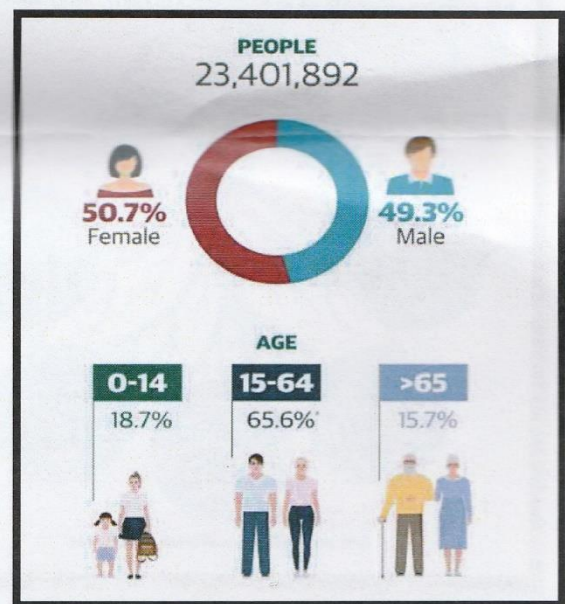
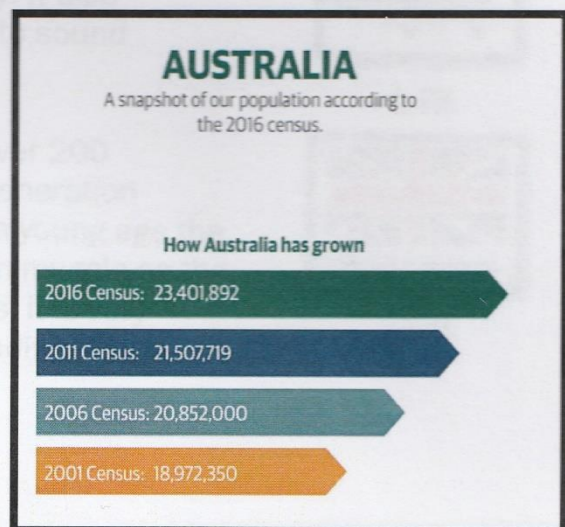
your on-going contribution to South Australia.

Recently the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census revealed Australia as a fast changing, ever-expanding, culturally diverse nation. I hope you will find the overview provided here an interesting read.

The 2016 Census data provides a detailed and fascinating picture of Australia and our communities. The idea of the 'typical' Australian has fundamentally shifted. Australians are now less religious, more culturally diverse, more educated and older than ever before.

According to Census - We are "A nation of nations" - So many people are proud to call Australia "home". Our people come from almost everywhere. Australians were born in close to 200 different countries. This means people from all over the world are part of our diverse nation.

The Census highlights our rich cultural diversity - with more than 300 languages spoken in our homes (including Auslan - Australian Sign Language), more than 100 religions and more than 300 different ancestries.



The Census shows that Australia has a higher proportion of overseas born people (26%) than New Zealand (23%), Canada (22%) and the United States (14%). What about the United Kingdom, you ask? Not even close (only 13%). This makes Australia a hugely diverse nation.

If you dig a generation deeper and our diversity becomes even richer. People born overseas, or who had at least one parent born overseas, made up almost half (49%) of our entire population in 2016. Perhaps this explains why so many of us are not sure who to cheer for in the World Cup, the Olympics or at Eurovision.

For those of us who are actively engaging and working with the multicultural communities of South Australia, the new census data will of course present no surprise to us. We are indeed already experiencing the constant demographic changes in the society we live in.

We are a young and lucky country! For many Australians the phrase 'the lucky country' has a particular resonance. We are "lucky" because of our weather, our lifestyle and our rich migration history. It also describes the nation's good fortune, from gold booms to sound economic achievements.

Thank you once again for your on-going contribution to enrich our vibrant South Australian multicultural landscape. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in anyway. You can easily reach me by phone on 8237 9408 or via email jing.lee@parliament.sa.gov.au

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 170 June 2017

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS
EDITOR - FRANK L. SCICLUNA Contact: honconsul@live.com.au

In this Issue

- MALTA'S HALL OF FAME
- MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT MALTA
- ST. GREGORY CHURCH ZEJTUN
- HOW TO SPEAK AUSTRALIAN
- JOSEPH MURCAT RE-ELECTED PRIME MINISTER 2017
- ORCHIDS IN MALTA

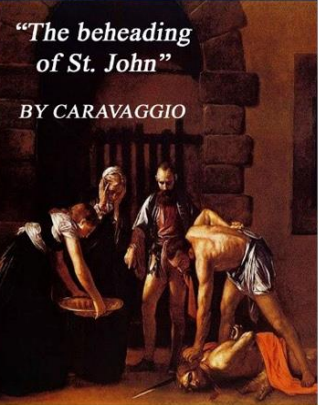


If your front door could talk, what would it say about your home?

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"The beheading of St. John"
BY CARAVAGGIO



Michelangelo Merisi better known as Caravaggio

Caravaggio (1571 - 1610) made Malta his refuge when he became a fugitive from Papal authority for committing a murder in Rome. Granted hospitality by the Knights of St. John and later a pardon by the Pope, the famous and controversial painter produced a number of works for the Order and was eventually inducted into its ranks as a Knight of Grace. His sequester was abruptly ended following his incarceration at Fort St. Angelo after a violent brawl. Caravaggio managed to escape to Sicily, but remained an itinerant fugitive until his death two years later.

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7 June Riots
Boomerang
Teatru Rjali
Octopus Stew
Malta Catacombs
Statue of a Grandmaster



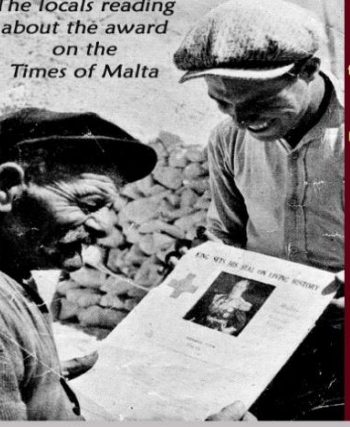
Our readers are from all over the world

Gardjola Gardens
Gardjola Gardens in Senglea's bastions offer spectacular views of the Grand Harbour. The gardens were planned by Grandmaster De La Sengle in 1551 with a lovely guard tower built on the tip of the bastions. The guard tower, 'Il-gardjola', has various symbols sculpted on such as an eye, an ear and the crane bird, representing guardianship and observance protecting the Maltese shores.

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The locals reading about the award on the Times of Malta



To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta to bear witness to a heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history.

King George VI April 15th 1942


1942: Malta awarded George Cross medal for bravery

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TRADITIONAL MALTESE FESTIVAL L-IMNARJA
28 - 29 JUNE
Buskett Gardens - Dingli



In this Issue

- To Malta with Love
- St. Gregory's Procession
- Canada Day
- St. Mary Chapel
- Bir Muflih
- Maltese Mrs. Bucket
- Your Opinion Counts
- Maltese ID Card
- L-Innu Malti
- Order of Malta in Ireland
- Happy reading

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

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Folk Dancing in the Village Square in Malta

THE MALTESE DIASPORA READS, ENJOYS, SHARES AND SUPPORTS THIS JOURNAL

PACKED WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INFORMATION, CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE, ARTS AND MUSIC AND PROFILES OF MALTESE LIVING IN MALTA AND BEYOND ITS SHORES


FREE, EASY-TO-READ AND NOT POLITICAL

THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER
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75th Anniversary 1942-2017

The Santa Marija Convoy August 1942



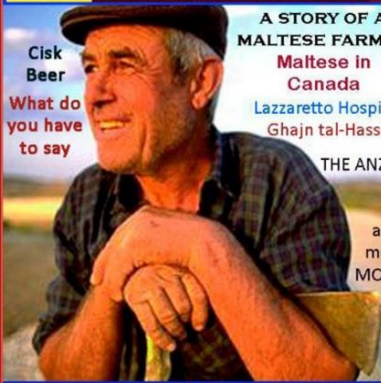
Operation Pedestal, known in Malta as the Santa Marija Convoy, was a British operation to carry supplies to the island of Malta in August 1942, during the Second World War (page 3)

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A STORY OF A MALTESE FARMER
Maltese in Canada
Lazzaretto Hospital
Għajn tal-Hassellin
THE ANZACS



Cisk Beer
What do you have to say

Our grandparents used to say that once in your life you need a lawyer, a policeman or a doctor but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer

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KOALAS
The koala is a unique Australian marsupial. It is sometime referred to as a koala bear because of its similarity in appearance to a teddy bear. Its closest living relative is the Wombat, but has a thicker coat, larger ears and longer limbs. Koalas are only active for around two hours a day and get all their fluids from eating eucalyptus leaves



AUSTRALIA'S CUTEST ANIMAL THE KOALA

SOME OF THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS – SUBSCRIBE NOW
SEND AN EMAIL TO FRANK – maltesejournal@gmail.com

Province of Malta – CARMELITE CHURCH AT ST. JULIANS - MALTA



This Province, situated on the island of Malta (mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles 28, 1), was erected on May 7, 1892. Previously, the Maltese foundations formed part of the Sicilian Province of St. Angelus, and when the English took over the island they became an independent vicariate.

The Carmelites arrived in Malta in 1418, when the noblewoman, Margaret d'Aragon, deeded the chapel and surrounding land of Lunzjata (Rabat) to any religious Order that would undertake the incumbent religious duties. The Carmelites accepted the offer. Subsequently, they opened priories in Valletta (1570), Vittoriosa (1582-1652), Mdina (1659), Balluta - Sliema (1892), Santa Venera (2 houses: 1913 and 1980), Fgura (1945) and Fleur-de-lys (1947). In 1944 a secondary school, later named Saint Elias College, was inaugurated. To it the Province owes many vocations and men of learning and virtue. In 1949, the Province, answering the Prior General's call, opted to send missionaries to work in Africa, but at the Prior General's insistence, instead sent men to Peru in 1949 and to Bolivia in 1956. In 1987 the Province assumed the care of the church and convent of Milazzo in Sicily (Italy). In 1990 the Carmelites restored Lunzjata (Rabat), establishing there a House of Prayer and Retreat Centre

Among its members the Province numbered two bishops: Mgr. Francis Raiti, bishop of Trapani, Sicily, and Mgr. Redemptus Gauci, bishop of Chuquibamba, Peru.

At present the Province of Malta has about 60 religious working in Malta, Bolivia, Italy, United States and Peru.

For further information: Province of Malta website: <http://www.karmelitani.org>

Kunvent tal-Karmnu - Triq it-Torri - SLIEMA, SLM 1600

Tel. 21330198 / 21337573

EDWARD CARUANA FROM SYDNEY NEEDS OUR HELP



My name is Edward Caruana. My parents were both born in Malta. Mum (Mary [née Fenech]) was from Casa'l Paola and Dad (Tony) from Cospicua.

I have done a few things in my life, including being in St John Ambulance for 25 years. I am an avid table tennis player, playing since the age of 10 and now playing competition.

I was a Lecturer in the Discipline of Medical Radiation Sciences, at The University of Sydney for 20 years taking voluntary redundancy to look after my ageing mum. Both Mum and dad passed away. I am currently an IT Manager, at The Parramatta College. I am participating in an upcoming event that is both very important and an honorable cause. It is the 2017 Ping Pong-A-Thon (a 24 hour table tennis marathon that supports the work of seven amazing organisations committed to protecting and caring for young people impacted by human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Asia).

The event I will be participating in is being held in Sydney at Five Dock on October 22nd, 2017. I am hoping that you can help me raise needed funds for this cause. I would like to ask you to donate to support my participation in this event. Click onto the following link to go to the donation page (this will give a detailed explanation too): <http://tinyurl.com/yakyfdv1>

Donating online is fast and secure, and you and I will both get immediate notification via email of your donation. Note that this will be Tax deductible. **Please don't procrastinate**; donate by Wednesday 18 October, 2017. I am hoping that your readers would email this page to their friends and families to encourage them to donate.

Sponsorship would be greatly appreciated for such a worthwhile cause. I am hoping to raise at least \$500 Thank you in advance for your support. I really appreciate it. Kind regards,

Edward Caruana email: ecConnect@live.com.au Mobile: 0403 941 940

Edward Caruana - Resume

Edward Caruana has worked for The Parramatta College for 21 years, mainly teaching computer classes. Edward was a lecturer for The University of Sydney in Medical Radiation Sciences. He has a diverse range of experiences, including being Project Officer for The Parramatta Chamber of Commerce. Edward holds a Masters in Education, Graduate Diploma in Management, Diploma of Training Design and Development, Diploma of Vocational Education & Training and Certificate IV in Occupational Health & Safety.

Edward received the national award, "The Nicholas Outterside Medallion" which is the highest accolade bestowed by The Australian Institute of Radiography.

Some of his major attributes include his patience and perseverance. Edward was a natural teacher who enjoyed that others gain skills and knowledge through his classes

**SO MUCH TO READ
SO MUCH TO LEARN**

My name is Joe Flores from Victoria... I am one of your supporters and always read your issues of the Maltese eNewsletter. I like you to know that I send the letter along to 8 other people that are also keen to receive and read it. I thought I send you these pictures that I received from my cousin Brigitte in Malta and maybe you could add them to the Maltese letter to add a bit of Maltese Nostalgia. Who knows maybe some of your readers are or know someone in these pictures. Kind Regards

NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN PICTURES SHOW LIFE IN MALTA IN THE 1950s

MAY 15, 2017 BAY NEWS BAY RETRO, LOVEMALTA - NOSTALIGA

A photo album containing never-before-seen shots of Malta has been unearthed around 70 years after they were taken. The remarkable images show life in Malta in the late 1950s. There is a snap of the King's Gate entrance to Valletta. Two more show people fishing at the edge of the Grand Harbour.

Other images depict the Royal Navy in Malta as well as the Savoy Cinema on Kingsway in Valletta and HMS St Angelo. The images were discovered by photography enthusiast Max Sloan at an auction in Canada. He said: 'A while ago I bought a couple of boxes of photo books at an auction. 'In the same lot was a box of bric-a-brac which I had little interest in, but when I got home and emptied out the contents I found two little boxes of postcard sized black and white photographs buried at the bottom.

'They were all taken in Malta and Gozo between 1957 and 1959.

'All the pictures are unpublished. They look like they were privately taken so would be unlikely to have been reprinted or published anywhere.' Until now!



1. CARS HEAD
THROUGH THE KING'S MAIN
GATE IN VALLETTA



2. AN IRONMONGER
SELLING POTS AND PANS
FROM A CART IN PIETA



Thursday 28th September
7pm - 10pm

International Chamber House
Level 5, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

\$55 for Members
\$65 for Non-Members

Dress: Business attire

Food and beverage with a
Maltese theme will be included.

The Australian-Maltese Chamber of Commerce Victorian Chapter is proud to announce its networking and social event for 2017.

This is a must-attend event for business people and professionals with a Maltese-Australian background, who wish to make new contacts and discuss opportunities with potential business partners. Our inaugural event last year was a tremendous success and we are confident that this year will be even better.

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

The event will be hosted by the co-presenter
of Maltese Down Under TV, Marlene Scicluna.



Book now at: **tinyurl.com/amcc2017**

Note: Please bring photo ID for security pass access to the building.