



**THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER**  
**The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora**

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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**Painting by Giuseppe Cali 1867**

**SIEGE OF MALTA**  
**DEATH OF**  
**DRAGUT**  
**1565**





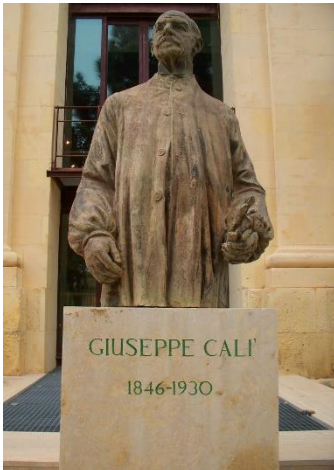
## GIUSEPPE CALI

1846 -1930

Cali was born in Valletta on the 14th August, 1846, was the son of Raffaele an artist and musician and of Giovanna Padiglione, a meza-soprano. He was married to Perennia Pace from Senglea and they had a big family of children.

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From early youth, Cali showed marked gifts and considerable promise as an artist. His major work, The Death of Dragut in 1867 placed at the Museum of Fine Arts and that of St. Jerome in the year 1881 situated at the Sacro Cuor Church in Sliema, which are still considered among his masterpieces.



He made an immediate impact on Maltese society and soon became a household name. He steadily embarked on a wide program of commissions for the decoration of private houses, landscapes as well a portraits of Maltese subjects. Cali's first religious paint was The Virgin of the Rosary for the parish church of Mosta. Numerous churches in Malta bear witness to his versatility and mastery. He was a prolific artist and founder of the modern school of Maltese painting. Cali's ability and virtuosity may be assessed in the St. Domenic altarpiece in the parish church of Porto Salvo, Valletta, The prophets in Mosta church the portraits of Negotiante Agostino Cassar Torregini and Guidice Carbone; the Tre Rome and The Nativity at Luqa parish church. The Apotheosis of St. Francis at St. Francis church in Valletta was purposely painted by the artist to demonstrate his virtuosity in the face of competition by foreign artist of lesser merit.



4.23 LADY READING ON AN ARMCHAIR  
Oil on canvas: 60 x 40 cm  
(Private collection)

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Pierre Bugeja and his team at Prevarti were tasked with the conservation of Giuseppe Cali's painting on the ceiling of the Parish Church of the Transfiguration at Lija,

## Italian President's state visit underlines close relations between Malta and Italy



Italian President Sergio Mattarella had talks with President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat at the start of a two-day state visit to Malta last week. President Coleiro Preca told a press conference that the two countries enjoyed excellent relations and were continuing to collaborate in international fora.

She said an important step in the relationship between the two countries was the successful completion of the Malta-Sicily interconnector. Malta, she said, looks forwards to the same level of cooperation for the development of a natural gas pipeline. She also observed that Italy remains Malta's biggest trading partner, and ranks first in imports, and fifth in exports, with bilateral trade exceeding a billion euro every year. Moreover, there are approximately 3,320 firms working in Malta with Italian shareholding.

Italy is also Malta's second-biggest tourism source market. The two Presidents also discussed migration. President Mattarella underlined the need to improve living conditions in countries of origin, to remove the need for migration. Conditions also needed to be improved in refugee camps in Libya.

He said the EU needed to guarantee legal and orderly routes to enter the bloc. During his meeting, Dr Muscat said the migration problem was not just a humanitarian issue, but a security one. Referring to a recent European Court judgment that upheld burden-sharing in the EU, Dr Muscat said that in the same way as Malta honoured its commitments and obligations, it expected other countries to do likewise.

**Minn qalbi nixtieq nagħtik prosit tal- "journal" li dejjem jisbieh u jkun fih materjal tassew interessanti. Nittama li dan il- "journal" iservi ta' ħolqa bejna l-Maltin ta' Malta u ħutna li kellhom kuraġġ biżżejjed biex iħallu xtutna. Aktarx li dak iż-żmien dan kien għalihom pass fid-dlam, imma żgur li illum ma jiddispjačihomx li għamlu hekk. Grazie, prosit u tisliziet. Lina Brockdorff**



## HISTORY OF AN ISLAND – THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA AND THE GREAT SEIGE *By Ron Fritze*

*If the Turks should prevail against the Isle of Malta, it is uncertain what further peril might follow to the rest of Christendom. — Queen Elizabeth I.*

Malta is the largest island in a small archipelago located less than 60 miles (90 km) south of Sicily and some 200 miles (290 km) east of Tunisia. It is about 18 miles (27 km) in length and 9 miles (14 km) in width with an area of 95 square miles (246 sq. km.) There are two smaller islands to the north, Gozo and Comino, as well as several very small and rocky uninhabited islands. I told Twylia that Gozo was originally named Milka but the name had been changed. I added that it was the birthplace of Bozo as well. She did not believe any of that stuff as my credibility is shot. As you can see, the poor woman suffers a lot.

**Phoenician traders** who settled Malta called it *Maleth*, meaning “haven.” The Greeks corrupted the name to *Melita*, meaning “honey,” from which the name Malta is derived.

In 1565, Malta was the headquarters of the Knights Hospitaller, who used it as a base for piratical raids against Muslim shipping. Who were the Knights Hospitaller besides being the lords of Malta? Over time they went by a number of names, including the Order of the Hospital and the Knights of St.

John of Jerusalem. In 1310 they conquered Rhodes, an event which led to a new name, the Knights of Rhodes. By the time the 1530s rolled around, they were commonly called the Knights of Malta.

**This famous** military-religious order originated shortly after the First Crusade's conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 and provided accommodations to pilgrims along with general almsgiving and medical care. By about 1123 the Hospitallers began to provide military protection for pilgrims. Along with the other Crusaders they were expelled from the Holy Land when the Mameluke Turks of Egypt captured Acre in 1291. That led to the Knights moving to Rhodes.

**The Powerful Ottoman Turks Viewed the Hospitallers at a Threat** - Meanwhile, a new power had arisen in Asia Minor (present day Turkey). The new power was the Ottoman Turks, who transformed themselves into a formidable and well-nigh irresistible military force. By 1453 the Ottomans had besieged and captured Constantinople, the last remnant of the Roman Empire, and made it their capital. They were not finished, either. Conquests continued in the Balkan Peninsula, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and North Africa. They also viewed the Hospitallers on Rhodes as a threat and inconvenience — and finally drove them out in 1522.

**Rendered homeless for seven years**, the Hospitallers received the island of Malta as a grant from the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in 1530 — hence the tribute of a gold falcon that serves as the plot focus of the classic film *The Maltese Falcon*. From that base they defended Christian shipping in the Mediterranean from the Ottoman navy and Barbary corsairs and conducted even more raids on Moslem vessels.

To the Islamic world, the Hospitallers' piracy was intolerable, forcing the Ottoman Sultan, the leader of the Islamic world, to honor his duty and dispatch forces to stop the Christian pirates. That sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent (1494-1566), was a seventy-year-old man, but he still wanted to expand his empire. He had the power to attack and capture Malta, so in October 1564 he decided to launch an expedition against Malta the following spring.

**Although Malta was a barren island** and ruled by the Knights, it was peopled by a native population of very ancient Christians, whose conversion, they claimed, extended all the way back to St. Paul. Speaking a dialect related to Arabic, they numbered about 12,000 on Malta, with another 5,000 on Gozo and Comino.

**LaValette Springs into Action** - The principle town was Mdina, but the Knights chose to settle beside the grand harbor in the village of Birgu. There the Knights proceeded to strengthen the village fortifications massively, building walls to protect Birgu from land attack and strengthening the fort of St. Angelo at the end of the peninsula, which commanded the entrance to the grand harbor. Senglea, a village on the other side of the harbor, was protected by the fort of St. Michael. The Knights also built a new fort called St. Elmo on the Sciberras Peninsula to provide the Grand Harbor with additional protection and also prevent enemies from using the Marsamucetto harbor.



A Knight of the Hospitallers

**Desite the strength** of their fortifications, the Knights' position suffered from being surrounded by high ground, which would allow a besieging force to shoot their cannon down into the towns. Anticipating an Ottoman attack, Jean Parisot de LaValette, the Grand Master of the Hospitallers (1494-1568), gathered supplies of food and ammunition to withstand a long siege. He also called for help from the Hospitallers not in residence at Malta and the Christian rulers of Europe.



Jean Parisot de LaValette

In the spring of 1565, LaValette's military force of 8,000 to 9,000 included 700 Knights among the army of Maltese irregulars and other troops from Sicily. The old and infirm of Malta were evacuated to Sicily to get them out of harms way and reduce the number of mouths that needed to be feed during the siege.

**The Ottoman Turkish force** was co-commanded the Admiral Piali, a Hungarian foundling who had been taken into the Sultan's household and risen to the highest maritime rank. The land forces were under the command of Mustapha Pasha, a Turk. The two commanders were to be advised by the famous and highly skilled Dragut, a corsair admiral based in North Africa and in service to the Ottomans. The Ottoman fleet consisted of nearly 200 ships, mostly galleys. It carried over 30,000 troops, which does not count the galley slaves or the sailors on the ships. Of those troops, 6,300 were part of the elite Janissary Corps of musketeers. These were slave soldiers who lived a Spartan-like existence.

The massive armada sailed from the Bosphorus of Constantinople on 29 March 1565. During the course of the siege, the Ottoman army would be joined by at least 10,000 additional troops from Egypt and the other Islamic lands of North Africa.

Fort St. Elmo

**Taking a Stand at St. Elmo** - Meanwhile LaValette garrisoned isolated St. Elmo with 52 Knights and 800 additional troops which included 200 Spanish soldiers from Sicily. His judgment was that St. Elmo was crucial to keeping the Turks out of the harbor of the Marsamucetto as long as

possible. On 18 May the watch at St. Elmo sighted the arrival of the Ottoman fleet. The alarm was sounded and all the inhabitants of Malta took refuge in the fortified towns. Most Maltese went to Mdina.

**LaValette also ordered his troops to poison** all the wells outside his fortified positions. While this did not render the water completely undrinkable, it contributed to the outbreak of dysentery in the Turkish camp as the siege progressed. LaValette's strategy was to take advantage of his fortified positions and not confront the enemy in the field. It was a sound strategy, given how much he was outnumbered. His biggest problem was the high ground

around Birgu, Senglea, and St. Elmo. The Ottomans began landing at the southern bay of Marsasirocco on 19 May, confident they would easily conquer Malta in less than two weeks. Moving on Birgu, they assaulted its walls on 21 May which resulted in the death of 21 defenders and several hundred Turks. This initial encounter did reveal that the Turkish musket fire was more accurate than that of the Europeans due to the better weapons of the Turks. Admiral Piali demanded that the first objective be St. Elmo so that he could have use of the safer Marsamuscetto harbor. Mustapha Pasha did not agree. He wanted to capture Mdina and focus on Birgu, but he went along with Piali, who argued that the safety of the fleet was paramount.





**Drag the Cannons to High Ground** - Dragging cannons up to Mount Sciberras, the Ottomans began bombarding St. Elmo on 24 May. They expected that it would fall within a week. LaValette considered St. Elmo the key to Malta's defense. Throughout the Turkish assaults, he continually reinforced St. Elmo by sending soldiers across the harbor in boats. The decision not to capture Mdina was a big mistake on the part of the Ottoman commanders as LaValette had stationed all his cavalry there. This mobile force continually harassed the Turks from the rear, a tactic that would eventually prove very fruitful for the defenders.

**To attack St. Elmo**, the Turkish troops had to cross a moat under fire. The defenders had raised drawbridges and broken down other bridges so the Turks had to construct portable bridges. Such massed attacks were costly in terms of casualties, but the Ottoman commanders had little regard for the lives of their men, given the common belief that if a Muslim died in battle with the infidels, they would go straight to a very fleshy paradise. Furious attacks continued through 29 May with tremendous casualties among the Turks, although LaValette had to continually reinforce the garrison at St. Elmo with fresh troops.

Dragut arrived shortly after 29 May. He regarded the focus on St. Elmo to be a mistake, but he also thought that since they were committed, the Ottomans could not abandon the attack and would have to continue until St. Elmo fell. Known by the title of "The Drawn Sword of Islam" and trained as an artillery man by the Mamelukes of Egypt, Dragut brought increased order to the Turkish bombardment. He added batteries at Dragut Point and Gallows Point to bring fire on St. Elmo from all directions. Soon the Turks were firing about 7,000 rounds into St. Elmo every day. The fort was slowly being pulverized.

**With summer at hand**, the temperatures began to climb, providing an unexpected and ominous ally for the defenders. The hot sun and warm air ripened the unburied dead and bred disease, while the poisoned water gave rise to dysentery in the Turkish camp. The Ottoman attacks on St. Elmo continued with fierce assaults spearheaded by Janissaries on 3 June and 7 June. The defenders, however, wreaked havoc among the Turkish attackers. Despite their success, some of the younger Knights in St. Elmo demanded on 8 June that the fort be evacuated. Instead, they were shamed into staying the course.

**An intense night assault** on 10 June killed 60 defenders, but also resulted in 1,500 deaths among the Janissaries. The cannons of St. Angelo were used to support the defenders of St. Elmo with enfilading fire.

**Stunning and Decisive Blows** - Vicious fighting continued. On 18 June the Ottomans suffered the stunning and decisive blows. The first came when Dragut was mortally wounded by shrapnel from a cannonball. Only his thick turban prevented instant death, but the head wound put him out of action and eventually killed him a week later. The second blow came when artillery fire from the defenders killed the Aga of the Janissaries. A day later the Master General of the Turkish ordnance was killed; he was the second in command of the army to Mustapha Pasha.

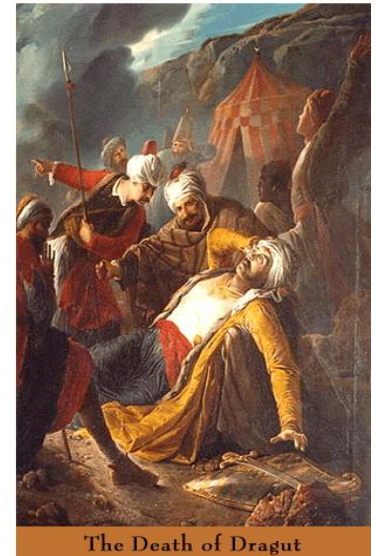
**Another furious assault** on 22 June resulted in 2,000 more Turkish casualties, but the war of attrition was beginning to decisively favor the attackers. It was clear that St. Elmo was doomed. Turkish troops breached the walls, and on 23 June a Turkish assault overran the fort. Nine Knights were captured by Dragut's men, never to be seen again and probably dying as galley slaves. Five Maltese swam to safety, but the rest of the garrison perished.

In the course of the month-long siege of St. Elmo, the Turks lost 8,000 men killed, roughly a quarter of their troops, including many elite Janissaries. About 1,500 defenders had died. As Mustapha Pasha looked from the ruins of captured St. Elmo across the Grand Harbor to the fort of St. Angelo, he asked: "Allah! If so small a son has cost us so dear, what price shall we have to pay for so large a father?"

**Although the fall of St. Elmo** was a great blow to the defenders of Malta, on the same day they received an important boost. Another 42 knights along with a force of soldiers from Sicily totaling 700 men landed on Malta and managed to sneak past the Turkish lines to reinforce Birgu by crossing Kalkara Creek. Meanwhile, hoping to avoid more bloodshed, Mustapha Pasha offered the Knights honorable terms of surrender. LaValette refused and so Mustapha began setting up his cannon to bombard Birgu and Senglea. His plan was to attack the fort of St. Michael at Senglea first.

To increase the pressure on the Knights, Mustapha had 80 ships drug across the peninsula of Mount Sciberras to threaten the defenders while bypassing the guns of St. Angelo. But a Greek noble, Lascaris, deserted the Turkish army and informed LaValette of the Turkish plan to attack across the water. To counter this plan, the Knights erected a palisade in the water with the intent of preventing the Turks from landing.

**The Cavalry Ride to the Rescue.**



After several weeks of preparation and bombardment, Mustapha ordered the first major attack on Senglea. Result: 3,000 Turkish dead and 250 defenders dead. The palisades had successfully blocked the landing of the Turkish boats. Due to the high casualties, Mustapha returned to the tactic of continual bombardment of Birgu and Senglea. After an all-out bombardment on 2 August, the Turks attempted to storm both St. Michael and the Birgu wall at the same time, but were repulsed with heavy casualties. On 7 August Mustapha ordered a simultaneous attack on St. Michael and Birgu to prevent the garrisons from reinforcing each other. Despite terrible casualties, the Ottoman forces were on the verge of capturing St. Michael when retreat was called. The Maltese cavalry in Mdina had launched a raid on the Turkish camp, massacring the sick and the wounded, plundering what they could, and destroying the rest. It was a demoralizing blow to the already demoralized Ottoman army.

**Ottoman forces began to dig tunnels** under the walls of Birgu with a plan to fill them with gunpowder and blow up or undermine the fortifications of the Knights. On 18 August, a mine under the Castille bastion of Birgu was ignited, causing part of the wall to collapse. At that point the Ottomans launched coordinated attacks on Senglea and Birgu. Piali led the assault on the damaged Birgu wall and penetrated into the town, but LaValette led the counter-attack to recapture the breach and save the day.

The Turks also erected siege towers to threaten the walls of Birgu. LaValette's nephew was killed attempting to destroy the great Turkish siege tower on 19 August. Although the tower survived that day, the Knights destroyed it soon after. It collapsed in a wrecked heap. The next day, 20 August, the Knights even managed to capture another Turkish tower.

**Both sides were becoming desperate** - The Ottomans were running low on gunpowder, a deficit evident to the defenders of Malta, who saw the rate of fire from the Turkish cannons slacken significantly. Inside Birgu, the Grand Council of the Knights urged LaValette to abandon Birgu and retreat to St. Angelo. He refused as it would mean total defeat soon after. Meanwhile Mustapha ordered the capture of Mdina, but that effort was abandoned in the face of strong resistance.

From the beginning of the siege, LaValette and the Knights had been expecting a large relief force from Sicily. The Spanish Viceroy of Sicily, Don Garcia de Toledo, had promised to send an army by the end of June, but it failed to appear. He promised again for July, but it also never sailed. Finally on 25 August, the Spanish fleet with 8,000 to 10,000 soldiers sailed from Syracuse on Sicily for Malta. A storm, however, delayed and damaged it. The fleet returned to Sicily and did not sail again until 4 September.

**The Turks attempted one more mass assault** on 1 September. It, too, failed. Disease, an enemy even more potent than the guns of the defenders of Malta, ravaged the Turkish camp. The fighting force of Mustapha and Piali had fallen into terrible condition, with their remaining troop strength reduced to around 15,000 men.

The Spanish force from Sicily arrived on 7 September and began landing at Mellieha Bay on the north coast of Malta. The reinforcements totaled about 8,000 men, meaning the defenders were still outnumbered. The wily LaValette sent double agents into the Turkish camp to inform Mustapha that 16,000 Spanish troops had landed. Mustapha ordered an evacuation, which proceeded on 8 September. But when Turkish scout ships informed Mustapha of the small size of the relief fleet, he ordered his troops to disembark and return to the battle. Piali disagreed with the order, a common occurrence between the two men.

**The split between leaders** reduced the attacking Turkish force to 9,000 troops, who were sent against the 8,000 men of the relief force. The Turks were turned back and forced to retreat to their ships. It was not a rout, however, and the Turks managed to sail back to Constantinople.

**In the War of Attrition, The Christian Knights Prevail** - The Great Siege was done, having lasted four extremely costly months. Seven thousand Christian soldiers and Maltese died defending the island, including 250 of the Knights Hospitallers. Although the garrison consisted of 9,000 men at the beginning of battle, only 600 remained capable of bearing arms at its end. The Ottoman army lost at least 30,000 men. Of the 31,000 men who left Constantinople in March, only 10,000 returned. The remaining losses were inflicted on the allied troops from Egypt and North Africa. Suleiman the Magnificent had suffered only the second significant defeat during his long reign, the first having occurred at the siege of Vienna in 1529. The defeat at Malta halted the westward expansion of the Ottoman Empire in the Mediterranean. Suleiman died the next year while campaigning in Hungary.

**After the siege was over**, Birgu was renamed *Vittoriosa* or "Victorious City." Senglea was renamed *Invitta* or "The Unconquered." LaValette moved the home of the Knights to Mount Sciberras in 1566. The new town on the Mount was named *Humillina Civitas Valettae* [the most humble city of Valetta] in honor of the Grand Master. LaValette suffered a stroke while hunting in July 1568. He lingered for several weeks, dying on 21 August, and was buried in the Cathedral of St. John, which became the resting place of all the Grand Masters who followed.

## **OCTOBER IN MALTA**

### **Pink October Run**

**Organizer:** Simon Muscat

**Location:** Sliema

**When:** 1st October

**Time:** 08:30

**Phone:** +356 2347 8116

**Website:** [www.pinkoctober.support](http://www.pinkoctober.support)

### **Malta Classic**

Display of cars, races spread on four days

**Organizer:** Malta Classic

**Location:** Mdina

**When:** 5th to 8th October

**Time:** 08:30

**Phone:** +356 2133 9165

**Website:** [www.maltaclassic.com](http://www.maltaclassic.com)

### **Malta Tattoo Expo 2017**

**Organiser:** MFCC

**Venue:** MFCC, Ta' Qali

**When:** 6th to 8th October

**Contact:** +356 2141 0371

**Website:** [www.mfcc.com.mt](http://www.mfcc.com.mt)

### **Notte Bianca**

**VALLETTA 2018**

**Organizer:** Malta Council for Culture and the Arts

**Location:** Valletta Streets, museums, palaces, gardens and restaurants.

**When:** 7th October

**Time:** 18.00 to 24.00

**Phone:** +356 2339 7000

**Website:** [www.nottebianca.org.mt](http://www.nottebianca.org.mt)

### **October Ahoy**

**Organizer:** Valletta Cruise Port

**Location:** Valletta

**When:** 7th to 8th | 14th to 15th | 21st to 22nd | 28th to 29th October

**Phone:** +356 2567 3000

**Website:** [www.vallettawaterfront.com](http://www.vallettawaterfront.com)

### **Fjakkolata - A Celebration of Lights**

**Organizer:** Santa Lucija Local Councils

**Venue:** Santa Lucija, Gozo

**When:** 8th October

**Time:** 19:00

### **Relive The Medieval Life Of Mdina**

**Venue:** Mdina

**When:** 8th October

**Time:** 10:00 - 10:45

**Contact:** +356 7995 8282

The next tour will be Sunday 5th November

### **Birgufeast 2017**

**Organizer:** Birgu Local Councils

**Venue:** Streets of Birgu

**When:** 13th to 15th October

**Time:** [www.birgu.gov.mt](http://www.birgu.gov.mt)

### **Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci**

Two operas on one night

**Venue:** Aurora Theatre, Victoria, Gozo

**When:** 14th October

**Time:** 19:30

**Contact:** +356 2156 2974

**Website:** [www.teatruaurora.com](http://www.teatruaurora.com)

### **Malta Military Tattoo**

**Venue:** Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre

**When:** 14th to 15th October

**Time:** 19:00 - 22:00

**Website:** [www.mfcc.com.mt](http://www.mfcc.com.mt)

### **Hamrun Chocolate Festival**

**Organizer:** Hamrun Local Council

**Venue:** Hamrun

**When:** 21st October

**Time:** 19:00 - 23:00

**Contact:** +356 2122 2020

**Website:** [www.il-hamrun.com](http://www.il-hamrun.com)

### **Rolex Middle Sea Race**

**Organiser:** Rolex Middle Sea Race

**Venue:** Valletta

**When:** 21st October

**Time:** 10:00

**Website:** [www.rolexmiddlesearace.com](http://www.rolexmiddlesearace.com)



# Journey To The Unknown

By Ron Borg

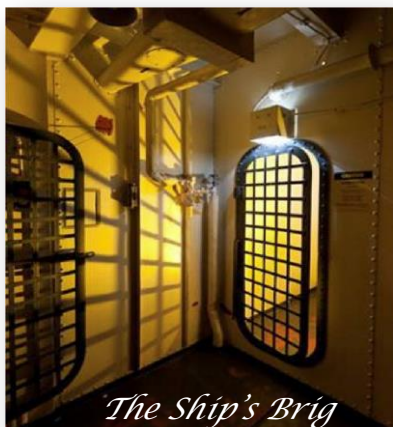
## TN Castel Felice

This Castel Felice was originally built as the “Kenya” in Glasgow in 1930. She offered sixty-six berth First Class cabins, and 120 in Second class, as well as space for 1,700 Third class, come deck passengers. In 1940 she was refitted as a troop ship, and renamed “Hydra”. When the war ended, she was sold in 1946, repairs, was sold to the Sitmar Lines and renamed the “Kenya” again in 1950. She received her final ‘Italian Touch’ by



the new owners, and departed on her maiden voyage from Genoa to Australia in 1952, as the new "Castel Felice".

In 1955 air-conditioning was installed and accommodations were changed to 28 First Class, and 1173 Tourist class passengers. Late in 1957, Sitmar obtained the lucrative contract to transport assisted migrants from Britain to Australia. On September 1970, the ship made her final voyage to Sydney and in October, went to Taiwan to the ship breakers yard where she was soon broken up.



*The Ship's Brig*

Lorry Pace voyaged from Malta on this beautiful ship on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1955, but recalls two events that happened this trip. One of the passenger who obviously misbehaved seriously was apprehended and put in the "Brig" (the ship's jail) for the rest of the journey.

The other rather sad occasion was that some one

died on the journey and had to be buried at sea. Not very nice events, but these things do happen, even on a sea voyage!

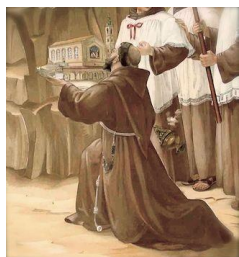
Also on this ship, but in November 1956, Leli Saliba left his home in Rabat Malta to voyage unaccompanied to Australia. However, he recalls that there were fellow Maltese passengers on the same journey. Emanuel Portelli, Jimmy Aquilina, Emanuel Ellul, and also Lorry Cauchi who travelled to Australia, and although the trip was uneventful, Leli recalls that they met with some pretty rough seas, so he was more than glad to set foot on Port Melbourne where his brother met him and drove him and friend Rocky Schembri back to Adelaide.



*Leli Saliba in his younger years*

**This Series "Journey To The Unknown" will continue in the next Newsletter – Ron Borg Adelaide, Australia**

## THE FRANCISCAN MISSION IN THE HOLY LAND



### Custodia Terræ Sanctæ

The Holy Places, however much their beauty can be admired, are not just stones. They are the manifestation, the footprints of the passage of God in this world and the echo of the words of the Lord who spoke to us through prophets and apostles and became "flesh", a man like us, living in our midst. They are stones which heard the words and drank the blood of our Saviour. That word of God and that blood that was spilt now have to be collected and preserved because they are part of the life of every Christian.

Listening to the voice that springs from those stones and understanding their message has always been the work of the sons of St. Francis in the Holy Land. This is what the various Popes mean, when they say that the friars' mission has been to work so that the Biblical Places become centres of spirituality, each sanctuary preserving and handing on the evangelical message and also nurturing the piety of the faithful. In 1947, Pius XII told the Franciscans of the Holy Land: "We know that you too, as your predecessors did, work diligently so that in the holy places entrusted to your care, everything possible is done to best satisfy the piety of the



faithful." The friars have not only been the "guardians" of the stones and of those places in order to preserve their value, but their mission has also been to make them living stones, so that they speak to the heart and to the mind of all those who set off on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land, to be able to see the "simple stones" as "beloved stones" through their faith. The sons of Francis of Assisi – in the words of John Paul II – have been able to interpret "in a genuinely evangelical way that legitimate desire to look after the places of our Christian roots."

Overview: The Franciscans hold a convent (Monastery) in Mount Zion, near the Zion Gate outside the walls of the old city. The Franciscan order has been entrusted by the pope with the upkeep of the Holy Land Christian shrines since the 14th Century.

### ST FRANCIS CONVENT AT MOUNT ZION

**Location:** The site is located on Mount Zion, Israel, outside of the old city walls and 100M south-west to Zion gate. It is easily accessed from the parking lot near the Zion gate.



**History :** The Franciscan order was established by Saint Francis, an Italian who lived in the late 12th C. The Franciscans presence in the Holy Land started in the early 13th C, when they resided in a small house in via Dolorosa. In 1342 Pope Clement VI declared that the Franciscans are the official custodians of the Holy places ("Custodia Terroe Sanctoe"). This custody is still in effect to date.



**Convent history** - From 1335 to 1551 the monastery was located in the place of the tomb of King David <sup>(1)</sup>, the traditional location of the last supper. From 1551 until 1560 they resided in a bakery nearby. After then they relocated to another site in the city (St. Saviour). (1) Thanks for S. Browns who provided a correction Only many years later they returned to Mount Zion. In 1936 the Franciscans bought the bakery building from DeJani family, and transformed it into the present convent of St. Francis. The entrance on the side facing the Zion gate is seen below. The signs read "conventus S. Francisci" (Monastery of St. Francis) and "Custodia Terrae Sanctae" (Custodians of the Holy Land). On the right - The seal above the gate is seen on the left side.

In the center of the seal is the 5 crosses symbol - the Franciscan's symbol. This symbol was the Crusaders sign of Jerusalem, and was adapted by the Franciscans. It is based on the 5 Holy wounds of the crucifixion of Jesus (2 in the hands, 2 in the legs, and one in the chest). Above the five crosses are two hands on both sides of a cross - the symbol of the custody of the Holy places. The bare hand is the hand of Jesus, while the hand with a sleeve is St. Francis of Assisi, the founder. Both hands are perforated - the holes created by nails (Jesus on the cross, St. Francis of stigmata).



### MALTESE FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE HEART OF JESUS

A Pontifical congregation since 1927, the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus started their service in the Franciscan convent of St. Saviour in 1981. The official invitation requested the Franciscan Sisters for the convent of St. Saviour, for them to take responsibility for the Infirmary of the Custody, the boys' Orphanage and the kitchen of the convent.

The Franciscan sisters of the Heart of Jesus have houses in Malta and Gozo, Sicily, Bari, Rome (with the Generalate), Ferrara, London, Corfu, Jerusalem, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Australia, Brazil and Philippines. Today there are 5 Franciscan Sisters in Jerusalem and they are responsible for the kitchen. They work in the Infirmary and look after the vestments at the Basilica of the Resurrection.

## VALLETTA WATERFRONT

With its nineteen historical 250-year-old warehouses, built by Grand Master Pinto at the height of the baroque period in Malta ... stretching along the water's edge and the historical Quay Wall where the Knights of St John and European



merchants used to unload their wares ... the impregnable Old Power Station that serves as a testimony to the eclectic and heroic history of the Grand Harbour ... the Forni Stores, dating back to 1626 and constructed by Grand Master de Vilhena – the Valletta Waterfront invites you to discover its complete mix of retail, dining and leisure

experiences.

The Valletta Waterfront is also the gateway to Malta's capital city, Valletta – a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen. In fact, as one of the most successful Mediterranean ports, the Port of Valletta welcomes more than half-a-million cruise passengers into this open air museum. All this comes with an added bonus – the majestic setting within the Grand Harbour, a natural deep water port, for many thousand of years the epicentre of Malta's maritime activity, a truly exceptional and outstanding backdrop.



**Valletta Cruise Port named as Top-Rated Mediterranean Cruise Destination** - Valletta Cruise Port, a subsidiary of Global Ports Holding has been named as Top-Rated Mediterranean Cruise Destination in Cruise Critic's 2017 Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards.

Cruise Critic, the leading cruise reviews site and online cruise community, has announced the winners of its annual Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards, naming the world's top cruise destinations, based entirely on consumer ratings submitted with reviews on CruiseCritic.com over

the year. The awards name the top cruise destinations across 15 regions worldwide. Cruise Critic boasts the world's largest online cruise community, with more than 350,000 cruise reviews, covering approximately 500 cruise ships and over 300 worldwide ports.

'Itineraries are incredibly important to today's cruisers who are more focused than ever on where they're going and what they can do while they're there,' explains Colleen McDaniel, Senior Executive Editor of Cruise Critic. 'Cruise lines have focused on expanding their offerings to quench that thirst for exploration – and this year's list of winning destinations shows the wide array of adventures cruising offers.'

'We are very excited to be listed as a Top-Rated Mediterranean Cruise Destination by the Cruise Critic community. Valletta Cruise Port together with local stakeholders pull all ropes to ensure that Malta continues to excel as a cruise destination. Excellent passenger satisfaction ratings and recognition for Valletta's port services and the destination give us renewed energy to continue working relentlessly,' commented Stephen Xuereb, CEO of Valletta Cruise Port and COO of Global Ports Holding.

This year Valletta will welcome more than 330 port calls, expecting in excess of 700,000 passenger movements. Valletta Cruise Port is operating its second regular homeporting operation, with the P&O Oceana, also with a weekly homeporting operation by TUI Cruises. Furthermore 2017 is the run-up year to Valletta 2018, where Valletta will hold the title of the European Capital of Culture, with the calendar of events adding exciting layers to what the destination already offers. Valletta Cruise Port, together with the Valletta Waterfront outlets is organising a number of events on the Valletta Waterfront including: Maltese Nights every Thursday from 8pm until the end of September; October Ahoy! upcoming in October; and the annual Christmas and New Year's festivities, amongst other planned activities. **FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.vallettawaterfront.com/>**



## HISTORY OF THE MALTESE COMMUNITY WHO LIVED IN EGYPT



A Maltese group of refugees from Egypt welcomed in 1956, by the Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington, England.



In 1940, the Maltese Girl Guides and the Scout Group were invited by the Old Seas Scouts of the Royal Navy to indoor campfire at the Alexandria Fleet Club, Egypt

*These photos are published in the book A TRANSIENT COLONY – In the Valley of the Nile, written by N.D. Chircop OAM*





## The Malta National Stadium



For Maltese football enthusiasts, the most significant breakthrough to-date was probably the construction by the local Government of a new National Stadium at Ta' Qali, close to the old City of Mdina, in an area which served as a military airport during the Second World War.

This Stadium was inaugurated in December 1981, and for the first time ever top Division League matches and international matches started being played on natural turf. Over the years the association has kept the pace in improving its facilities with the aim of offering top quality facilities to its members and fans.

Today, the MFA boasts of a National Stadium equipped with all modern amenities, including individual all-round seating for 18,000 spectators, a top of the range floodlighting system, electronic scoreboard, a public address system, a media centre, VIP lounges, a gymnasium, a physiotherapy clinic, a Technical Centre and other facilities

Other refurbishments at the National Stadium include the laying of an artificial turf surface around the pitch, new laminated tempered glass fencing to replace the old wrought iron ones, a facelift of the dressing rooms and press area, besides other embellishments have all given Malta's football centre stage a new look.

Also, we had the re-building of the 5,000-seater East Stand, henceforth called the Millennium Stand. This place houses the Malta F.A. Headquarters, 6 executive boxes, a secluded spectator balcony with an adjacent Foyer— ideal for use by Corporate entities at events being held in the Stadium, and facilities for indoor sport, besides providing areas for recreational and social activities. There is also a garage underneath, catering areas and ample parking space around the stadium.

Besides these improved facilities, the Malta FA has converted the old gym underneath the West Stand into a centre for the use of national team players, with a state-of-the-art clinic to cater for their fitness needs and those of member clubs and visiting teams making use of our facilities. All facilities at the stadium are easily accessible by means of several entrances.



FOOTBALL TEAMS 2017 DIVISION 1





## Sunday Morning in Marsaxlokk

The Sunday morning fish market in Marsaxlokk is a national treasure. As Merlin so rightly put it, "People travel halfway across the country to buy their groceries!" Granted, it's not a large country, but it was still impressive to see - for example - the man boarding the bus back to Valletta with his bag of white beans and half a dozen hot peppers. Another man boarded with shoe inserts. Of course, fish is the main event, but why buy anything anywhere else when you can use it as an excuse to spend Sunday morning in Marsaxlokk?

The town is as picturesque as can be with its harbor full of traditional *luzzus* (heavy, wooden fishing boats painted bright blue, yellow and red and decorated with a set of eyes - a style said to date back to the Phoenicians) and old limestone buildings. Here you have the second largest harbor in a country literally surrounded by them - and it's filled with fishing boats. It's such an idyllic setting for a fish market that it could feel like a movie set if not for the familiar European market schlock bookending the fishmongers. Knock-off Cars toys and cheap shoes anchor dreamy atmosphere right back down to earth.

It took us a while to reach the fish, passing through the inedibles and then the green grocers and bakery stands. And the flowers - wow, Spring is in full bloom. People packed into the market avenue, making their way down the aisle between the two rows of shaded stands. Even when a few raindrops began to fall, the mood remained energetic and jovial. People caught up, children helped push strawberries and pastries, couples strolled in their Sunday best. It was a town a-bustle packed with the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour.

The produce is in that great transitional period right now. Cabbages sit in boxes, their big unfolding leaves asking for a little more attention before the fluffy, leafy greens take over. Tight little artichokes look downright seductive next to dimming brussel sprouts. Carrots are no longer the brightest kid on the block. This is *the* market in Malta - even people in Valletta, which has its own Sunday market - drive over to Marsaxlokk to pick



up what they need, "anything here (Valletta) will be there (Marsaxlokk) - and then they have more. Of course, by "more" he meant fish, fish, fish!" one of the locals said.

Even in the outlying fishless sections you feel the true bait and tackle nature of the place. Notice the gas pumps for boats. When we ducked around them to get past a particularly dense crowd, we got our first real look out into the water. There was just as much activity out there as onshore. People came to and fro unloading, loading, taking a small boat out to their bigger boat with the ease of someone riding an escalator. Sunday is clearly not a day of rest for the residents of Marsaxlokk. For butcher it is definitely. Not a single meat vendor present - a European market first.

Husband and wife teams worked in tandem at every aspect of their family business. On the boats, they untangled lines and nets, on the dock, they gutted and cleaned fish side by side. Malta just legalized divorce last year. Until then, it was one of three countries in the world in which it was outlawed (along with Vatican City - where I'm pretty sure most of the citizens aren't allowed to marry either - and the Philippines). Well, looking at the teamwork on display, I'd guess that the residents of Marsaxlokk weren't part of the majority who voted for legalization of de-coupling. Who'd hold the other end of the line? It was really sweet to see the way the town's fishing industry ran - the casual conversations and jokes shared between a man and woman in gut-specked aprons.

Once you hit the fish section of the market, you hit it hard. All of a sudden there's a veritable aquarium around you. Since the fish are all caught locally, a lot of the stalls had these sort of potpourri bins filled with downright tropical looking catches that didn't fit into one of the conventional groups. Sometimes, you'd bend in to look a little closer and a fish would start flopping around at your approach. It was just playing dead! Crafty as a shark. Moray eels and slipper lobsters, gnarly fish that looked like coral. The cluster of tabletops was a stunning visual, so clean and vibrant that you barely noticed the characteristic grit of most fish or meat markets - the blood and guts, sharp knives and bandaged hands.



## Valletta - European Capital of Culture in 2018

Valletta, along with all the localities of Malta and Gozo, was awarded the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture 2018. Malta has for centuries been an important place for exchange and a playground for European ideas. Malta is an island, gem in the Mediterranean Sea, full of history with a pleasant and warm climate. Every great civilisation left its traces, what the Phoenicians, Romans and Arabs did. There are even megalithic structures of more than three thousand years of age. But it were the knights of the Order of Malta who brought the country a blossoming economical and cultural life in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. This makes Malta an interesting destination for a city trip, just a 2.5 hour flight away from Brussels



This is a school work written by a ten-year old boy who is living in Salt City, Utah, USA. He is still in Primary School. He is my grandnephew, Oliver Ryan.

Fr Gabriel S Micallef – Adelaide, Australia

## GOING THROUGH THE AZURE WINDOW



*Oliver Ryan (USA) 12th September 2017*

My Mother, unlike my Father, Henry and I, was born in a different country than the US. My mother's country is one of the smallest in the world, one can barely see it on the map. This miniscule country is called Malta. Gozo or Ghawdex, the smaller of the country's inhabited islands, is home to one of the top ranked diving spots in the world. The name of this diving area is creatively known as the blue hole. Over the blue hole stood the Azure window. Malta is located sixty miles southwest off the shores of Sicily. When we

lived in England my family's summer vacation was always planned on this smaller island of Malta called Gozo. The only way to reach this natural wonder by land was to pass through my mother's village. Arriving in summer always had the same sensation. The moment one gets out off the plane it feels like you are shrivelling up, like a Maltese sun dried tomato. I am very fortunate that my Mother lived there, because the island is so small, she knows everyone in her village called San Lawrence which is also the patron saint of the village. Every village in Malta has their own patron saint. Saint Lawrence is a catholic martyr. He was burned alive because he wished to burn with his mentor, the Pope, Pius VI. Similar to that of other villages, San Lawrence has a feast day, on the 10th of August.

After the feast day my Nanna's (maternal grandmother) side of the family have a family party along the village beach called Dwejra. The food always has a particular taste, salty like the Mediterranean. Stereotypically, a lot of pasta, wine, sparkling water and soda is served. The best thing at the party is the freshly picked watermelons. The Maltese watermelons are as fresh ice cold tap water but sweet as a lollipop. My mother's uncles and cousins grow them for the summer. Dwejra, the beach there engulfs a beautiful, green, salty inlet, with a rocky and jagged shoreline. The inlet is surrounded by 50 ft walls of rock that look like a spiky sponge. In the centre of the rock wall there is a little cave which opens out to the Mediterranean Sea.

During our family's most recent Dwejra beach party, one of my mother's cousins (and there are hundreds of "cousins") took me out on their small family fishing boat around the Dwejra and through the Azure Window. This was the first time I had ever went under the Azure arch. The Azure Window was a heritage site of

Malta visited by thousands of tourists. A breathtaking natural wonder. Going through the arch I felt like I was being opposed by a giant that emotionally intimidated me. The wind in my mouth tasted of ice cold tap water. The sunset over the horizon was cinematic. The scene I was experiencing was the perfect image for any great painter. I recall thinking at the time, that one day I dearly wish to be able to rent a boat and paint that glorious scene. Little did I know that six months after that magical and emotional sunset through the Azure Window, that ancient, majestic yet ever so fragile arch would collapse, crashing into the deep Mediterranean Sea. Erosion, battering winter seas, time and movement along the ocean floor finally took its toll.

When we got back from my short boat tour, I was very glad to go and play with my cousins. We did all sorts of fun things. We stared up at the stars. Because of how clean Malta's air is, we could see the bright shining stars ever so clearly. They twinkled like freshly polished diamonds. Afterwards, my cousins, Henry and I all went skipping stones in the inland sea until the dark of night fell. Today I am most thankful for the opportunity to have seen the Arch, sail under it, sensing its majesty and being touched by its beauty.

## 45 Years Malta – China: Photographic exhibition inaugurated at the Citadel



A photographic exhibition organised by the Chinese Cultural Centre: 45 Years Malta – China, is took place at the Citadel Cultural Centre in Gozo.

The exhibition was inaugurated by The Minister for Gozo Dr Justyne Caruana, together with His Excellency Mr Jiang Jiang Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary since the inception to the diplomatic ties between China and Malta.

This free of charge exhibition depicts some of the important highlights of China-Malta relations and is

open to the public until the 30th of September, between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

The organisers have said that despite the long distance between China and Malta, the two countries both enjoy long histories and splendid cultures, and the friendly exchanges between them can be traced back to ancient times.

"Since the establishment of diplomatic relationship in 1972, China and Malta have maintained friendly cooperative relations and political mutual trust. Moreover, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges have been increasingly deepened," they said.

In recent years, China and Malta have carried out cultural exchanges which have played an important role in strengthening the mutual understanding of the two peoples and consolidating the bilateral relationship, the Chinese Cultural Centre said. Gozonews.com

## ARMED FORCES OF MALTA Joanna Demarco

The majority of uniforms worn by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) include trousers, and are therefore considered to be gender neutral, according to a spokesperson from the disciplined corps.



The Malta Independent contacted the AFM following a public statement on Facebook by Police Union Chief Sandro Camilleri, who expressed his support for gender neutral police uniforms, after a police officer, assigned female at birth, requested to wear the male police uniform, occurring for the first time within the police force.

"The Armed Forces of Malta has what are called 'Standing Orders' that regulate what its members should wear for different occasions," said an AFM spokesperson.

"The majority of these uniforms are with trousers, and hence are considered gender neutral. In addition, in 2014, the normal daily uniform (which consisted of trousers for male and a skirt for females) was changed to the combat uniform which is trousers-based." "Whenever an issue to wear different uniforms was raised, this was handled without any problems," they added.

Earlier this week, Silvan Agius, Director for Human Rights and Integration within the Ministry for European Affairs and Equality and Member of the LGBTIQ consultancy council told this newspaper that the best option would be for a workplace to make all 'gendered' options available to all individuals for them to wear what they feel most comfortable in. Agius replied that he would opt for having more than one option, and would remove the 'male' and 'female' categories on the uniforms. "I would go for the latter and I would also remove any unnecessary differentiation," he said.

"A workplace could, for example, make all options available to the individual, and it will be up to the employee to pick and choose what suits them best," said Agius.



## Genetic Study Solves Which Came First The Chicken or the Egg



Tiffany Kaiser

One of the most puzzling and famous life questions has stumped people for generations. It's the question of which came first: the chicken or the egg? In order for there to be an egg, a chicken would have had to lay it. In order for there to be a chicken, it would have had to hatch from an egg. It seems as though either answer could be the correct answer; until now.

Dr. Colin Freeman from Sheffield University along with colleagues from Warwick University have figured it all out. Their research project originally aimed to figure out how animals make eggshells because it's an extraordinarily strong yet lightweight material that no human has been able to replicate, and the researchers hoped to learn how to develop a manmade equivalent by learning about the way animals make eggshells.

Chickens were chosen as their test subjects simply because the protein was easy to study. The study began when Freeman and his colleagues used the UK Science Research Council's super-computer called HECToR (High End Computing Terascale Resource), which is based in Edinburgh. The "ingredients" used to make eggshells were programmed into HECToR, and that was it. The computer was left to produce results on its own, and it took weeks for HECToR to figure out how chickens make eggshells.

When HECToR finally arrived at a conclusion, the researchers were stunned when they realized that they had solved the age old question. After years and years of debate, it was finally determined that the chicken came before the egg. "It had long been suspected that the egg came first, but now we have the scientific proof that shows that in fact the chicken came first," said Freeman.



## Stage and Proms on the Sea -- it-Tielet edizzjoni

Matul dawn l-aħħar jiem fil-bajja tal-Imġarr ittellgħet għat-tielet sena konsekuttiva s-serata mużikali 'Stage and Proms on the Sea' mill-Gozo Youth Wind Band' taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Joseph Grech bis-sehem tas-solisti Ludwig Galea u Sarah Bonnici. Udjenza sabiha kienet preżenti għal dan l-ispettaklu li pprova għal fuq minn siegħa u nofs siltiet popolari u medleys minn musicals magħrufa li kienu jinkludu fost l-oħrajn 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Annie', 'Wicked', 'Mary Poppins' u 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. L-orkestra żagħżuġha

interpretat ukoll b'hila l-Març tal-kompożitur Ingliż Edward Elgar 'Pomp and Circumstance No 1' kif ukoll 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs' ta' Henry Wood. Waqt ikla delizzjuża l-udjenza setgħet tgawdi wkoll l-arrangament ta' Anthony Chirkop 'The Best of Maltese Folklore' waqt li l-kantant Ludwig kanta wkoll 'Music' ta' John Miles u siltiet minn "Robbie Williams: Swing when you're Winning' fuq arrangament ta' Frank Bernaerts. Il-programm kollu, li kien ppreżentat minn Joe M Attard u Lily Said fetaħ b'siltiet popolari li hargu mill-pinna ta' Andrew Lloyd Weber li kienu jinkludu 'Superstar', 'I dont know how to love him', 'Dont cry for me Argentina', 'Memory', u 'Phantom of the Opera'.

Ta' min jinnota li 'Gozo Youth Orchestra' se tkun il-Germanja bejn it-13 u l-20 ta' dan ix-xahar tieħu sehem fi Progett tal-Erasmus flimkien mal-'Europe Youth Orchestra' mill-Germanja. L-appuntament li jmiss ma' din l-orkestra żagħżuġha se jkun nhar il-Gimgha filgħaxija 13 ta' Ottubru 2017 fil-pjazza helwa ta' Santa Luċija meta għal sena oħra se tippreżenta kuncert iehor ta' mużika varjata taħt id-Direzzjoni tal-Fundatur tagħha Mro Joseph Grech quddiem il-knisja ċkejna ta' dan l-irħajjel pittoresk Ghawdxi fuq stedina tal-Kumitat Amministrattiv tal-post.

**Kav Joe M Attard -Ghawdex - emarjos@hotmail.com**

Allan Scott Auditorium, Hawke building, [UniSA City West campus](#)



Europe has undergone various challenges in recent years – from the declined of the Euro to the refugee crisis to Brexit. What has gone wrong with the European project, a revolutionary political experiment that was meant to deliver (and in fact did deliver for many years) peace, democracy, open borders and constantly rising living standards through the gradual sharing of sovereignty? What are the main challenges facing Europe and the European project and what if anything can be done to relaunch the project? What would be the consequences of failure for Europe and beyond in times when globalisation and the liberal global economic order can no longer be taken for granted?

**Professor Loukas Tsoukalis** was born in Athens, Greece. He studied economics and international relations at the University of Manchester, the College of Europe in Bruges, and the University of Oxford where he obtained his doctoral degree. He taught for many years at Oxford University and later became Professor at the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science. He returned to Greece as Professor of European Integration at the University of Athens and has been for many years President of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), which is Greece's main think tank. He has also taught in other leading universities in Europe and the United States. In 2016, he was Visiting Professor at the Kennedy School at Harvard University.



He has advised the former President of the European Commission and the former President of the European Council. He is the author of many books, including some of the bestsellers in the field, which have been translated into several languages. His latest book *In Defence of Europe: Can the European Project Be Saved?* was published by Oxford University Press in 2016. He has received academic distinctions and awards, including the *Légion d'honneur* of the French Republic for his contribution to European integration.



## MALTESE

Nhar il-Ġimgħa, 22 ta' Settembru, Inizjamed se tikkollabora mal-Koperattiva Rurali Manikata għal Palk Hieles ieħor. Il-post din id-darba se jkun f'tit aktar speċjali mis-soltu – ir-Razzett tal-Qasam li jinsab il-Manikata f'tit 'il bogħod minn Għajn Tuffieħa. La se nkunu hemm, se ninsew f'tit l-urbanità u se npartu s-saqaf li jkollna fuq rasna għal f'tit kwiekeb u qamar

għoddu kwinta. Forsi kultant flimkien maċ-ċapċip tas-soltu se nisimgħu xi tiġieġa mill-bogħod tqaqi, imma jekk xejn kliemna se jkun aktar faċli jitle' fis-sema.

Minkejja li se nkunu f'post differenti, xi affarijiet se jibqgħu l-istess, jiġifieri il-palk se jkun hieles biex minn fuqu inti tista' taqra xi poeżija jew storja, taħlita tat-tnejn, tirreċta jew tkanta xi haġa oriġinali. Il-lingwa ta' Inizjamed hija t-traduzzjoni għalhekk kwalunkwe lingwa jew hoss huma merħba bihom.

Fl-intimità tal-post se jkollna bħala mistieden speċjali lill-poeta Gioele Galea, awtur ta' hames ġabriet ta' poeżija li huma xhieda ta' vjaġġ bla kompromessi, lejn profunditajiet fejn l-għera hi tremenda daqs l-essenzjali.

Koperattiva Rurali Manikati wkoll se jorganizzaw bar ċkejken biex inkun nistgħu nbillu ġriżmejna. Għal-lejla waħda l-għażla se tkun f'idejk tkunx spettatur, l-attur jew it-tnejn.

Bħal dejjem id-dhul u l-partecipazzjoni huma bla h̄las. Għal iktar informazzjoni iktbu lil [inizjamedprojects@gmail.com](mailto:inizjamedprojects@gmail.com).

Attività fuq Facebook: [www.facebook.com/events/130144047627410](https://www.facebook.com/events/130144047627410).



ENGLISH

On Friday, 22nd September Inizjamed will be collaborating with Koperattiva Rurali Manikata for another Open Mic. This time, the venue will be a bit more special than usual – ir-Razzett tal-Qasam (a farm) that is situated in Manikata, very near to Għajn Tuffieħa. While there, we're going to forget a bit about urbanity and above us, rather than a ceiling, we will have stars and a full moon. Since being in a farm, at times alongside the applause, we might hear the clucking of a hen, but at least it would be easier for our words to make it to the sky.

While being in a different venue, the fare is the same as usual. The stage is for you to read a poem or a story, a mixture of both, perform a stand-up sketch, play or sing something original. The language of Inizjamed is translation, so we are eager to listen to any type of language.

Being an intimate place, our special guest will be an intimate poet, Gioele Galea, an author of five anthologies of poems, poems that are a witness of a voyage without compromises, towards profoundness where nakedness is tremendous as much as the essential. Koperattiva Rurali Manikata will be also organising a small bar to whet our beaks. As always, entrance and participation are free. For more information, contact us at [inizjamedprojects@gmail.com](mailto:inizjamedprojects@gmail.com)



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