



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Frank L Scicluna OAM - Editor

Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com



THE POWER OF LOVE
Favourite Moments
from the Wedding of
Meghan Markle
and Prince Harry
Duke and Duchess
of Sussex

Saturday 19 May 2018



Reverend Bishop Michael Curry upstages Meghan Markle with impassioned sermon at the Royal wedding



ABCNEWS: [Annabel Crabb](#)

PHOTO: *From the outset, it was clear that Bishop Curry was not going to deliver a standard Church of England sermon.* (AP: Owen Humphreys)

Behind any Royal wedding pulses — among its hordes of fretful planners — is the atavistic fear that the bride will be upstaged by someone.

Maybe it'll be a precocious pageboy. Or perhaps a bridesmaid's shapely derriere. It's a funny old wedding, however, in which the bride is upstaged by the clergy. And yet that is exactly what happened.

It began as a largely routine Royal wedding, remarkable only for the extra wattage in its star turnout.

The weather was perfect, the crowds gathered and the Queen disembarked from her Bentley dressed in a shade that no other nonagenarian in the world would be self-possessed enough to attempt.

The invited guests took their seats with that slightly entitled air common among people who have had to be instructed on the invitations to wear hats but not swords please.

The published order of proceedings (which still included the bride's father, a moment of thrift having precluded the printing of a fresh set) was at once over-detailed and somehow dull, like the persistent whisperings of an extremely reliable equerry.

At 11.45am the Mother of the Bride, Ms Doria Ragland, arrives at the Galilee Porch and is received by the Dean of Windsor and is conducted to her seat in the Quire.

At 11.52am Her Majesty the Queen arrives at the Galilee Porch and is received by the Dean of Windsor who presents the Canons of Windsor and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Those in the Quire stand as Her Majesty is conducted to her place in the Quire. A fanfare will sound.

And then the Most Reverend Michael Curry spoke.

From the outset, it was clear that this was not going to be a standard Church of England sermon, which tradition dictates should be delivered in the tone of a very shy person asking the way to the train station.

A copy of Bishop Curry's address was distributed in advance, but he immediately went off script, barely glancing at the tablet in front of him on which his prepared words blinked patiently.

He started with the Reverend Martin Luther King, then into an energetic reverie about love.

"Now the power of love is demonstrated by the fact that we are all here," he enthused, hands flying.

"Two young people fell in love, and we all showed up. But it's not just for and about a young couple who we rejoice with. It's more than that."

"I am talking about some power. Real power," the visiting churchman continued, his delivery building to a rhetorical peak, prepared text receding in the speech's rear-vision mirror.

"Power to change the world! If you don't believe me, well, there were some old slaves in America's Antebellum South who explained the dynamic power of love, and why it has the power to transform.

"They explained it this way. They sang a spiritual, even in the midst of their captivity. It's the one that says there is a balm in Gilead — a healing balm." Prince Charles looked exceedingly awkward..

Martin Luther King! Slaves! Now, England didn't have an elaborate formalised slave-owning racket the way America did, but one could very confidently say that among the 600 assembled there would be plenty whose vast inherited fortunes were boosted at some point by the blood, sweat and tears of fellow humans who were not paid for their trouble.

So the Bishop's words were ... bold. And loud. And fuelled by a passion and showmanship that — while by Episcopalian standards the preacher was barely tapping his foot on the accelerator — made many of the Royal guests either look at their shoes or giggle.



He mentioned "love" 58 times; this might explain the discomfiture of Prince Charles, who at the time of his first marriage expressed some difficulty with the concept.

But there was one woman who looked entirely comfortable, nodding along contentedly to the words of the visiting bishop. And it was the woman who otherwise had the most reason to feel ill at ease — the woman who only two days earlier had flown from California to London to meet the Queen, say hello to her only daughter, then head to a castle built one millennium ago by William the Conqueror to see that daughter marry a prince in front of a global television audience of 20 million or so.



Doria Ragland — whose

own ancestors were slaves, and who was unaccompanied at the ceremony, quietly wiping tears from her cheeks as she watched her daughter — was quite at ease with the soaring rhetoric, and didn't seem to notice the bubble of nervous hysteria building among the congregation.

Never was the difference between two cultures more apparen





The MCA, in collaboration with other entities manages a number of free WiFi spots across Malta and Gozo. The project is intended to promote the usage of Internet by means of

The WiFi project involves the setting up of free Wifi Internet points at locations frequented by the community. The project is intended to promote the usage of Internet by means of portable devices such as laptops, tablets and mobile phones away from home or the office desk.

The WiFi points enable visitors of these public places to connect to the Internet at any time of the day. All the Internet points are filtered against inappropriate and unlawful content so as to offer a safer internet environment particularly for minors.

Having access to ICT is as important as having access to basic utilities such as water and electricity. ICT today is no longer an amusement machine but rather an indispensable tool for communication, work and learning purposes.

The MCA Malta Free WiFi - The "MCA Malta Free WiFi" provides a map

(<https://www.mca.org.mt/initiatives/free-wifi-hotspots>) showing all the available WiFi hotspots spread across the Maltese islands. Other features of the application include:

Nearby - if the user's location is available (via GPS), this view displays the nearest hotspots to the current location including real-time updates of the distance and direction to each hotspot. If the location is not available, all hotspots are displayed in a list.

Map View - this view displays all WiFi hotspots as markers on a Google map. The current location, if available, will be displayed as a blue dot. Further information may be obtained by tapping on the relative marker for the hotspot.

Fault Reporting - integrated with the application, users can report any faults via email.

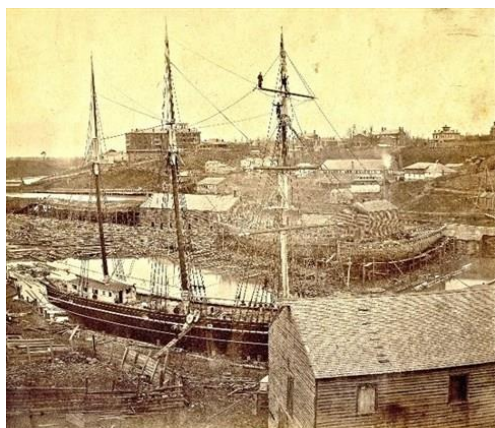
Updatability - updates are carried out automatically in the background, and users may also trigger a check for updates at any time.

Android and iPhone application are now available for download. The application is aimed at making it simpler to locate the over 340 free WiFi hotspots that are installed across the Maltese islands. The application also shows the closest hotspot in relation to the user current location. It can be downloaded for free from Google Play and Apple Store. PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE: <https://www.mca.org.mt/initiatives/free-wifi-hotspots>

UPDATING INFORMATION FROM NEWSLETTER 219

Since our eNewsletter's aim is to bring to the attention of all Maltese living abroad the activities of our communities around the world, we were very impressed when we received the May/June 2018 issue of the **Newsletter of the Maltese Canadian Club of London, Ontario Canada** edited by Dan Brock. In our edition 219 we published articles and photos taken from this journal. We are very grateful that we were provided with such an exciting e-newsletter. In our journal we also published photos which were taken from the same newsletter. We must emphasise that those photos were courtesy of Dan Brock, DOI – Clifton Fenech and Tony Galea.

The heading of the article by the historian Dan Brock was unintentionally changed from "Seventieth Anniversary of the First Arrivals" to "Seventieth Anniversary of the First Maltese Arrivals in Canada." The implication is that the Maltese did not arrive in Canada before 1948! It is common knowledge that the first documented Maltese individual to arrive in Canada was Louis Scicluna/Shickluna (see article below), possibly as early as 1826 at Quebec, and that while there was but a trickle of immigration into Canada during the 19th century large numbers arrived just prior to and in the years immediately following the First World War. And then the Canadian government all but cut off emigration from Malta for more than 20 years.



Remembering the Master Shipbuilder Louis Shickluna

Here is documentation of the first Maltese arrival in Canada published in the *St. Catharines Standard* – Ontario, Canada **A historic photo of the Shickluna**



shipyard. From the *St. Catharines Museum*

As we come to the end of another shipping season in St. Catharines, let's take a look back at one of the shining lights in shipbuilding in our city's history.

Louis Shickluna was born in Senglea, a small city in east Malta on June 16, 1808 and would grow up to be known by his peers as "a prince among shipbuilders" and one of St. Catharines' most notable citizens. As a child, Shickluna was said to have hated school. So he began learning his craft at the tender age of 11, with his father and grandfather in Valetta, Malta at the Royal Navy's shipyard. He continued developing his expertise in shipbuilding and carpentry throughout his teen years.

When an economic depression hit Malta, he immigrated to the United States in search of work. Fortunately for him, he found employment right away and ended up working in Upper Canada, where he met Henry Mittleberger, who had been a business associate of William Hamilton Merritt, the founder of the Welland Canal. Mittleberger convinced Shickluna to relocate to St. Catharines to work on ships along 'Mr. Merritt's ditch.'

Intrigued by the proposition, Shickluna took up the offer in 1836, leasing a shipyard along the bank of the old canal from Merritt for \$15 per year.

This location is now notable for the enigmatic pink building located along 12 Mile Creek below the Burgoyne Bridge, used by the fire department in training drills.

Shickluna immediately cultivated a reputation for being a skilled shipbuilder and soon employed more than 300 people, including a large group of former fugitive slaves whom he ensured competitive pay.

Even with such a large workforce, he was often forced to turn down work as he was overloaded with contracts.

Over the years, he built and repaired many ships on the banks of the old Welland Canal, and ironically, the very first ship he repaired had been dubbed The Welland Canal.

In 1841, he built his first schooner in St. Catharines. It was called the Chief Justice Robinson, and was the largest ship able to navigate the Welland Canal at the time.

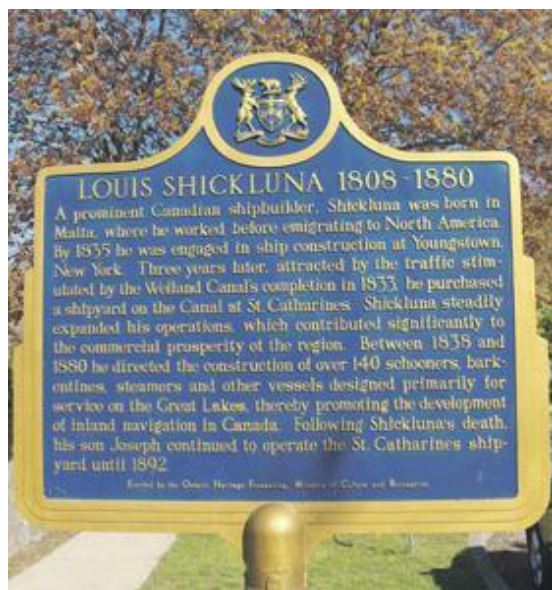
In 1850, Shickluna opened a dry dock beside Lock 3 of the second Welland Canal, which is now St. Paul Cres. By 1856, it is estimated Shickluna had built 24 vessels at the St. Catharines shipyard, in addition to doing countless repairs. In his lifetime, he is reported to have built as many as 150 ships, and perhaps more.

An article in an 1858 edition of the *St. Catharines Journal* proves Shickluna's overwhelming confidence in his trade, as he boasted the repair of a ship including the addition of a new mast and fittings completed in one evening.

In fact, he wagered \$1,000 to anyone in the world who could do the same job faster than he had. There were no takers.

In 1871, due to failing health and rheumatoid arthritis, Shickluna left the shipyard to his capable sons and returned for a final visit to Malta.

Before he departed, the people of St. Catharines presented him with a testimonial scroll signed by 97 prominent citizens, along with a gold watch and chain. He returned to St. Catharines the same year, and passed away April 24, 1880, leaving not only a shipyard and a fleet of masterworks, but a lasting legacy that also helped put this great city on the map. *Alicia Floyd is the Collections Technician — Archival at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre*



A plaque in St. Catharines, near the Welland Canal in Canada commemorates Louis Shickluna. It reads: *A prominent Canadian shipbuilder, Shickluna was born in Malta, where he worked before emigrating to North America. By 1835 he was engaged in ship construction in Yorktown, New York. Three years later, attracted by the traffic stimulated by the Welland Canal's completion in 1833, he purchased a shipyard on the canal at St. Catharines. Shickluna steadily expanded his operations, which contributed significantly to the commercial prosperity of the region.*

Between 1838 and 1880 he directed the construction of over 140 schooners, barkentines, steamers and other vessels designed primarily for service on the Great Lakes, thereby promoting the development of inland navigation in Canada. Following Shickluna's death, his son Joseph continued to operate the St. Catharines shipyard until 1892.

Seabourn's newest cruise ship christened 'Ovation' in the Grand Harbour



www.independent.com.mt

On Friday, 11 May, the Grand Harbour in Valletta hosted the christening of Seabourn's newest addition to their fleet, the *Ovation*. The *Ovation* is Seabourn's fifth ultra-luxury cruise liner, with one of the world's most preeminent designers, Adam D. Tihany, taking care of the design and layout of the

boat, focusing on providing the guests with novelty and intrigue at every corner.

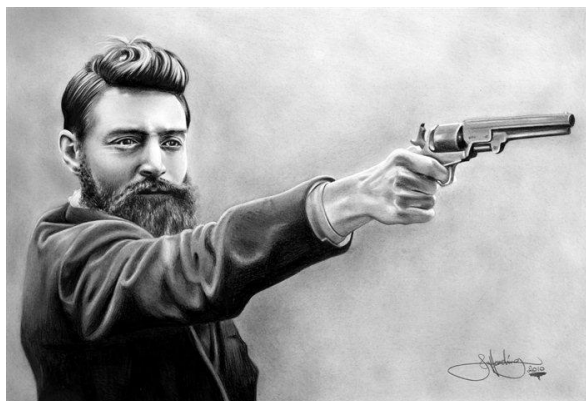
The Seabourn *Ovation* entered the Grand Harbour in the early morning of Friday, 11 May, at around the break of dawn, in preparation for the christening and celebration, which took place later on during the day.

Elaine Paige, the world famous singer and actress, will be serving as godmother to the Seabourn *Ovation* and therefore also led the christening ceremony, which had a lit Valletta as a spectacular backdrop for the occasion. Numerous VIPs invited by Seabourn were also in attendance.

The Executive chairman for the Malta Tourism Authority, Dr Gavin Gulia, said that a company of this stature choosing to carry out the christening ceremony for its latest, and possibly more luxurious ship, is a sign of Malta's progression in the cruise industry as well as in the tourism industry in general. Dr Gulia continued by saying that in 2017 the Maltese Islands saw a significant increase in cruise traffic, with the total figure amounting to over 670,000 passengers for the year, which was an increase of over 7%, when compared to 2016.

Dr Gulia concluded by thanking Mifsud Brothers Ltd, the agency representing Seabourn in Malta, for making the christening ceremony possible. The Minister for Tourism, Dr Konrad Mizzi stated that the cruise liner industry is a growing one for the Maltese Islands. In fact, increases have been registered on an annual basis since 2013, with the figure in 2017 being 55% higher than the one in 2013.

Dr Mizzi continued by saying that Malta has grown in reputation in this industry. Thanks to greater connectivity, the Maltese islands are acting as a hub for cruise passengers with more visitors flying to the islands to commence their cruise holiday. Dr Mizzi concluded by saying that in many instances, tourists visiting Malta for the first time during a cruise, will later return to explore the island.



The Tale of Ned Kelly, Australia's Armoured Outlaw

Notorious bushranger, popular icon and national identity, Ned Kelly was hanged at Melbourne Gaol in 1880. It was the final curtain in one of the most colourful and controversial careers in Australia's history.

A 'TROUBLEMAKER' IN A LAWLESS

OUTPOST -

Kelly was born in December 1854, near the town of Beveridge in Victoria. When he was 12, his Irish father John 'Red' Kelly, an ex-convict, died of dropsy, forcing Kelly to leave school and become the family breadwinner. Soon after, his mother Ellen moved the family to a slab hut in the tiny Victorian community of Greta to be near her own family, the Quinns, who were squatters. Greta was something of a lawless outpost, and the young Kelly soon grew into an accomplished troublemaker.

AN OUTLAW REPUTATION LEADS TO MASSIVE MANHUNT

Having served a brief apprenticeship with the infamous bushranger, Harry Power, Kelly formed a gang (Kelly, his brother Dan and mates Joe Byrne and Steve Hart) in 1878 and fled to the bush, where his outlaw reputation flourished. After roaming the countryside and living off their wits, the Kelly Gang shot dead three policemen who had been sent to capture them, sparking the biggest manhunt in Australia's history.



THE KELLY GANG'S LAST STAND

More shootouts and skirmishes with police followed. Finally, their luck ran out in the town of Glenrowan in north-east Victoria. After holding up the railway station, the Kelly Gang herded the town's citizens into the local inn, where the gang prepared for its last stand. In a back room, the clanking sounds of Kelly donning his homemade iron armour could be heard. The armour weighed 90 pounds.

KELLY CAPTURED: 'SUCH IS LIFE'

Police surrounded the inn and at 3am they opened fire. When the smoke had cleared, Dan Kelly, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart lay dead. Incredibly, Kelly escaped to the bush, only to reappear at sunrise out of the early morning mist to rescue his brother. This time, the police aimed low, where Kelly was vulnerable, taking out his legs in a volley of bullets. At last, Ned Kelly had been captured.

Kelly's preliminary hearing was held in the Beechworth Courthouse in August 1880. On 11 November, Kelly, aged 25, mounted the gallows inside the Old Melbourne Gaol. Moments before his death, Kelly reportedly uttered his famous last words: 'Such is life'.

Today, Ned Kelly is indelibly stamped on the nation's psyche – part villain, part folk hero, but also a man whose courage and defiance is uniquely Australian. Though he was killed, Kelly became a folk hero for many of the oppressed rural farmers of Australia, who had little rights to land and lived in poverty. He has become one of the largest fixtures of Australian culture and was even the subject of the first dramatic feature film ever released, *The Story of the Kelly Gang*.

.BANK OF VALLETTA – JOSEPH CALLEJA FOUNDATION**Getting to know Nicola Said**

Maltese Soprano Nicola Said is studying with Yvonne Kenny on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has performed Barbarina (Le Nozze di Figaro), La Fée (Cendrillon), Olympia (Les Contes d'Hoffman), and in scenes, Zerbinetta (Ariadne auf Naxos), Adina (L'Elisir d'amore), Ginevra (Ariodante), Ophelia (Hamlet), Norina (Don Pasquale), Philine (Mignon), Sophie (Der Rosenkavalier), Madame Herz (Der Schauspieldirektor), Musetta (La Bohème), Madame Mao (Nixon in China), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro) and Carolina (Il Matrimonio Segreto).

Nicola has studied at CSULB with Shigemi Matsumoto and in Malta with Juliette Bisazza, Alice Horne and Gillian Zammit. She has worked with David Gowland, Antonella Banaudi, Edith Wiens, Janet Perry, Roger Vignoles, Marilyn Horne, Cheryl Studer, Joan Rodgers and Beth Roberts. A Samling Scholar, she recently recorded a solo at Abbey Road Studios with the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and was nominated by Maltese Tenor Joseph Calleja to attend the 2014 Mozarteum Summer in Salzburg where she won Second Prize in the Strauss Competition. She is a recipient of the BOV Joseph Calleja Fund and has received support from the Malta Arts Scholarship, Ian Tomlin Scholarship Fund, Frieda Caplan, and the Janatha Stubbs Foundation. Her Opera Course studies are supported by The London Syndicate.

Project recitals include Forsi Hlomt...Discovering the Art of Maltese Song - a Maltese song recital as part of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields Embassy Series, Women In and Out of Love - a final recital featuring music by female composers, and the Maltese Premier of Patrick Hawes' Song of Songs at St. John's Co-Cathedral, an appearance in the Valletta International Baroque Festival in Malta, and Une Pastourelle and La Chouette in L'Enfant et les Sortilèges with the LSSO at Barbican Hall.

Nicola has recently been appointed Ambassador of the Malta Airport Foundation. She has just premiered the role of Echo in Laurence Osborne's opera Narkissus and the Reflektions in this term's Opera Makers Scenes. In August, Nicola will debut as Zerbinetta at West Green House Opera. In November, Nicola will be singing Rosaura in Wolf-Ferrari's Le Donne Curiose, and Lucia in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia in March.

**BARITONE CHARLES BUTTIGIEG**

The BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation is delighted to announce that Charles Buttigieg (18), one of its young Scholars from Ghajnsielem in Gozo, has been offered a full tuition scholarship to study Voice at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

Following a rigorous application process, Charles was selected to audition before the Admissions Panel in Philadelphia last month and was today informed that he had been selected for a place on the course which starts in September 2018. Curtis is one of the leading music conservatoires in the United States and specialises in educating and training the world's most gifted young musicians. In its letter of offer Curtis stated that Charles "stood out as one of the most talented and promising students in what was one of the most competitive applicant pools in the history of the Institute".

Joseph Calleja said that he was “delighted to hear the news” noting that Charles was “a rare baritone talent that the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation had been encouraging and supporting for over two years” adding that this “is the first step in what will be a long journey – but an excellent step at that, as Curtis is an outstanding conservatoire and with an acceptance rate of just 5% of applicants, competition for places there is always intense”. Calleja remarked that “great credit is due to Juliette Bisazza, Charles’ voice coach, who had been working with him for a number of years and who had prepared him so well for the critical audition process”.

Charles Buttigieg said that he was rendered “speechless” when he received the email notifying him of his success, and that he was greatly looking forward to taking up his place and working hard at Curtis - which has a very diverse community, and which has a culture of “learning by doing”. He added that he was most grateful to Juliette Bisazza, to Joseph Calleja and to the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation and its Patrons as well as to the many, many people who have helped and encouraged him over the years.

The stellar cast and team for The Crucible



Tuesday, 17 April 2018, 11:02 Last update: about 29 days ago

Teatru Manoel has just announced an impressive international cast and creative team for its forthcoming production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* which will be staged from Wednesday 16th May to Sunday 20th May 2018 at Teatru Manoel.

Arthur Miller is one of America's foremost playwrights. *The Crucible* is regarded as a central classical work in the

canon of American drama. Although it is a dramatized and partially fictionalised story of the Salem witch trials, that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692/93, its relevance still holds in light of current events. Arguably the most famed blame-game in theatre history, Miller's *The Crucible* will be presented for the first time at the Manoel.

The creative team is led by accomplished theatre director Sean Buhagiar with renowned contemporary artist Austin Camilleri designing his first ever set for the Manoel stage. The costume design is in the hands of eclectic designer Sef Farrugia whilst sound designer Yasmin Kuymizakis will be composing the music for the production. "I am both proud and ecstatic to be working with so many talented artists. This will be one heck of a hunt" said a gleeful Buhagiar.



The twenty-five strong cast is led by Maltese-Australian professional actor Kenneth Spiteri who flew in to portray the role of John Proctor with Brussels-based actress Simone Ellul as his wife Elizabeth.

Local star Nadia Vella takes on the role of Abigail Williams, undoubtedly one of the most soul-stirring female roles in theatre history. Renowned actor Stephen Oliver plays Judge Danforth and Edward Caruana Galizia is Reverend Hale. Other well-known names include Marylu Coppini, Isabel Warrington, John Marinelli, Michael Mangion, Narcy

Calamatta, Thomas Camilleri, Peter Galea, Colin Fitz and Nanette Brimmer. *The Crucible* also sees professionally trained actors Edward Thorpe, Hannah Cramer and Venezuelan Gabriela Mendez making their Malta debut. The bewitched girls are played by some of the best local young talent including Kyra Lautier, Daniela Carabott Pawley, Julia Camilleri with UK trained Roberta Cefai in her first big role in Malta as Mary Warren.

MALTA AMBASSADOR LECTURES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Professor Simone Borg (Malta Ambassador on Climate Action, Head of Department, Environmental & Resources Law, University of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 25 April 2018 and delivered a lecture on “Climate Change: The Ocean and International Law” and “Regulating Climate Change and Its Impacts on Ocean Life: Bridging the Gap between Science and the Law” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



Professor Simone Borg (Malta Ambassador on Climate Change, Head of Department, Environmental & Resources Law, University of Malta) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

In her lecture, Professor Simone Borg emphasised that in order for law to be responsive to current

pressing environmental issues such as Climate Change, there must be an integrated approach when formulating law based on sound and independent scientific research. An integrated approach, requires the streamlining of the effects of climate change upon the Ocean to enable comprehensive law-making exercise in this complex relationship between climate and the Ocean. Professor Borg maintained that it is crucial for International law-making to have the requisite structure that facilitates such an integrated approach to circumvent fragmentation. She further observed that it would be useful for a holistic law-making to have the support of a single scientific body for ocean science which is similar to the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate science. She maintained that International law is dynamic enough to act as an appropriate tool to ensure Climate and Ocean governance in a manner that is responsive to the current issues surrounding the environmental concerns and the socio-economic development of all States, with the valuable involvement of non-State actors.

Prof Simone Borg read for a doctorate degree in laws (LL.D.) in 1991 and a Magister Juris degree in International in 1994 from the University of Malta. In 2009, she obtained her Ph.D. on the Conservation of Marine Natural Resources at the International Maritime Law Institute. Prof Borg worked for the public sector from 1991 to 2004 first as a First Secretary with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then Head of the Legal and Multilateral Affairs Section within the Ministry of the Environment. During this time, she was mainly responsible for negotiating Malta's position in International Environmental Multilateral Agreements, the drafting of legislation and legal policy making in environmental law. She coordinated the transposition of the environmental and energy acquis communautaire during Malta's negotiations to become an EU member State. She also participated in various research projects with the European Union and the United Nations. Prof Simone Borg served as the first Chairperson to Malta's Occupational Health and Safety Authority.

Presently, she is Chair of the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Head of Department of the Environmental law and Resources law within the Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta. Prof Borg is also a visiting lecturer at: the Catholic University of Leuven, the IMO's International Maritime Law Institute and the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She has published law books as well as many articles and papers in law journals. She is a Co-Chair of the Forum of European Legal Experts on Climate Change Adaptation and Chair of the Platform of University of Malta Academics on Climate Change. She is the director of the International Master of Arts Programme in Ocean Governance and a Fellow of the Sustainability College in Bruges. Prof Simone is an Expert on the European Union Expert Team for Horizon 2020 SC5 Advisory Group. She has recently been awarded the Order of Merit by the President of France for her work in environmental law.

I am Maltese and live in San Diego, California for over 30 years. I was sent a copy of your excellent Maltese Newsletter and liked it so much I would like to become a regular subscriber. I enjoyed the well written and very informative articles. You are providing a great service. I also found you on Facebook and sent a friend request. I thank you in advance and wish you well in your endeavour to satisfy our yearning of staying in touch with our Maltese heritage and roots. Regards, Joseph Mizzi



Barracca Lift in Valletta, Malta

This twenty storey high panoramic lift, commissioned by the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation plc and designed by Architecture Project (AP), is located on the edge of Malta's historic fortified capital city of Valletta. Where once the sixteenth century fortified walls of the town served to keep enemy ships at bay, they are now under conservation order and provide an unbeatable new access for visitors and residents flocking here. Valletta is being given a new lease of life as the island prepares to host the presidency of the European Union in 2017 and the city having recently been named European Capital of Culture for 2018...

The structure is designed to enhance movement of large numbers of visitors and residents between the Grand Harbour and Valletta, from the water's edge along the Valletta waterfront, over the powerful landward enceinte of fortifications and into the heart of the city, creating new links to the Upper Barrakka Gardens and the new City Gate. It is bound to leave a significant visual impact on this sensitive heritage site and leaves no room for compromises on the engineering level, where attachment to the historic walls was not possible and where the program was extremely onerous. The Barrakka Lift project therefore required a certain rigour to resolve the dichotomy between the strong historic nature of the site and the demands for better access placed upon it by cultural and economic considerations.

Shifting political and economic realities have always been a challenge for this world heritage city and the connection between harbour and city has transformed itself over the years in response to these unrelenting changes. The eighteenth century saw the development of harbour infrastructure that gave rise to a thriving commercial hub outside the walls, separated from the residential heart of the city, while the British period transformed the port into a vital strategic naval and merchant base in the Mediterranean. Today, a very different economic reality is once again dictating the transformation of this dynamic area of the town: the recent restoration of Baroque waterside warehouses into a thriving cruise ship terminal as well as the development of restaurants and cafes, prompted the re-activation of a lift that had been built to connect the harbour with the town in 1905 during Valletta's heyday as a trading port. The original lift structure was 60m tall and contained two lift cabins each with a capacity of 12 passengers. The operation was closed down in 1973 and the structure abandoned and eventually dismantled by the 1980s.

The renewed connection serves the needs of thousands of visitors approaching the city from the traditional arrival point at the foot of the bastions. The heavy demands of accessibility to and mobility around the town required a much larger footprint and a stronger vertical statement within the skyline of the historic harbour were therefore inevitable. In order to resolve this, a cavity was created by pulling the two lifts apart, where a staircase could be threaded in between. Not only does this space accommodate mandatory safety requirements, but it also reduces the visual weight of the lift structure itself and accentuates the vertical proportions of the structure.

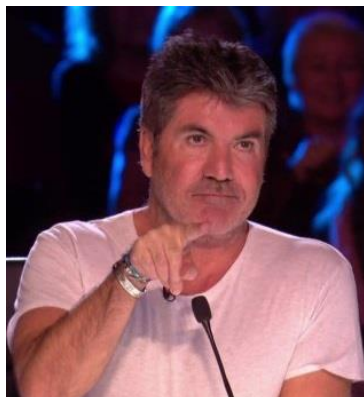
The geometric qualities of the plan echo the angular forms of the bastion walls, and the corrugated edges of the aluminium skin help modulate light as it hits the structure, emphasizing its verticality. The mesh masks the glazed lift carriages, recalling the forms of the original cage lifts, whilst providing shade and protection to passengers as they travel between the city of Valletta and the Mediterranean Sea. Author: Architecture Project; Bettina Hutschek Picture credits: [Sean Mallia](#), [Luis Rodriguez Lopez](#) and AP

Awards: Winner at the INSIDE: World Festival of Interiors in Singapore 2013, Transport category; shortlisted for the World Architecture Festival 2013



Britain's Got Talent: Amy Marie Borg was more nervous singing for Simon Cowell than Eurovision

The soprano who blew Britain's Got Talent Judges away admits that she was far more nervous to sing for Simon Cowell than at Junior Eurovision.



The 16-year-old from Malta appeared super nervous when she stood in front of the audience in the episode that aired on ITV this weekend.

Speaking to Metro.co.uk, Amy Marie Borg, who was also one of 20 Maltese finalists in the 2015

Junior Eurovision Song Contest said: 'I wasn't that nervous as it wasn't that big of an audience but with Simon, I was just a little bit more nervous.'



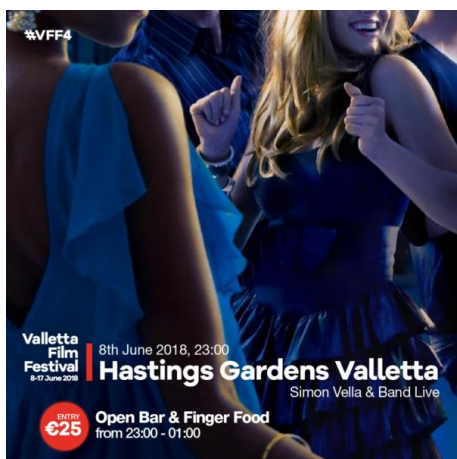
Amy Marie Borg shocked audiences and the judges (Picture) When asked if she would ever sing a pop song on the talent show, having passed through the next stage with four yeses, she admitted she had never tried the popular genre before.

'I've never sung pop before,' she told us. 'I was in musicals as a kid and then it developed into opera.' In 2015 Amy was also a semi-finalist in the Italian talent show Tra Sogno e Realtà – which translates as Between Dream And Reality. Simon Cowell was a fan of Amy's Despite appearing to be an expert at singing competitions, Amy suffers from terrible nerves and said she didn't expect the

reaction she received from the judges. She described the feeling as 'amazing.' The singer also added that her Britain's Got Talent experience was a lot 'bigger' than her time on the Junior Eurovision.

Read more: <https://metro.co.uk/2018/04/30/britains-got-talent-amy-marie-borg-nervous-singing-simon-cowell-eurovision-7510726/?ito=cbshare>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MetroUK> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MetroUK/>



OPENING PARTY – FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2018 – 2300HRS – HASTINGS GARDENS

Join us on Friday 8 June 2018 for the Opening Party of the fourth edition of Valletta Film Festival at the beautiful Hastings Gardens, Valletta. Two hours of open bar and finger food. Live music by Simon Vella and band. Price €25.



**OUR AIM IS TO
BUILD BRIDGES
NOT WALLS**





THREE STYLES OF MALTESE SONG - GHANA

Ghana, (pron. aa-na) is the generic term for Maltese folk song. Historically, several styles of għana flourished but today there are three main categories:

SPIRTU PRONT - (quick wit, literally 'ready spirit') *Spirtu Pront* is essentially an improvised song duels between two *għannejja*, each trying to outsmart the other in argument. Generally, two song duels are held simultaneously: the first singer matched against the third, the second against the fourth. Such an arrangement gives each singer more time to compose a response. Usually, the subject of the duel emerges early in the encounter itself, with the singers provoking their adversary.

TAL-FATT (factual) - Ghana tal-Fatt usually only involves one singer 'għannej'. Nowadays, the singer is often the composer of the lyrics; whereas in earlier times, certainly in the first half of the twentieth century, it was common for singers 'għannejja' to sing texts composed by others and published in *għana* booklets. The subject of fattijiet may be tragic or comic and may be based on actual events or fiction.

FIL-GHOLI (high-pitched) - While the other two styles (Spirtu Pront and Fatt) are driven by verbal play and narrative, għana fil-għoli favours the musical qualities of the voice as the song develops in melodic contours over the regular pulse of the guitar. The prolonged melisma of the words draws the listener along with them, inviting him to stay with the sense and colour of the sound, rather than attempt to follow the meaning of the words.



Harry Vidal – Australian Horse-Led Trek to Raise Funds

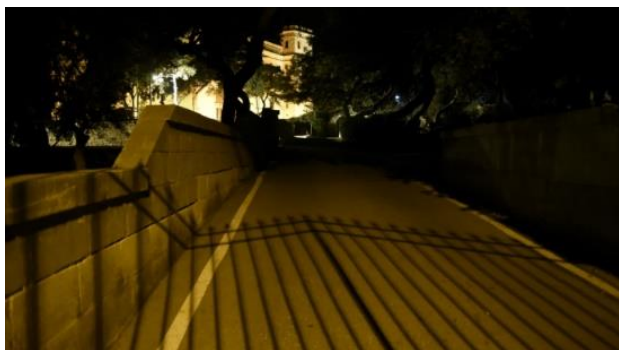
A self-proclaimed gypsy and serial fundraiser, Maltese Australian from Adelaide - **Harry Vidal** started his charity trek in March 2018 and will see him dedicate eight months of his life trotting across Australia to raise funds for the **Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)**, with his two Clydesdale horses and his beloved dog Akiesha by his side.

Mr Vidal's goal is to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service during one of his biggest fundraising treks to date which will start in Melbourne and head up to the Gulf of Carpentaria. "We are doing Burke and Wills track which is around 3000km and it will take us between eight to nine months," Mr Vidal said.

"We do only five kilometres an hour with plenty of breaks for the horses," Mr Vidal continued. A veteran to fundraising, Mr Vidal's previous endeavours included a four-month journey in 2016 from Murray Bridge to Lightning Ridge which raised \$20,000 for Craniofacial Australia.

"It is an amazing way to travel, you meet a lot of great people, you get to view things differently and most importantly I am raising money for a really important charity that is close to my heart!"

Mr Vidal encourages Australians to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service and their work in providing emergency medical and health care services to the rural and remote areas of Australia. "The RFDS is a great charity, I have seen the wonderful work they do first hand. I work on a farm in the Flinders Ranges and realise how critical they are to rural communities," Mr Vidal concluded.



Maltese ghost stories by

Paul Cocks

The Grand Master's niece became known as the Blue Lady

Saint, ghosts, ghouls and spirits... For what is reported to have started as a pagan ritual, Halloween has gradually gathered more and more followers even in oh-so-Catholic Malta. Tonight, more and more children in

costume will roam our streets, going door to door asking for a trick or treat, while many adults will attend invitation-only costume parties or get together to tour Malta's favourite haunted sites. MaltaToday revisited some of these places a few days ago, hoping the ghosts that haunt these places would still be getting ready for tonight.

Villa Sans Souci – Marsaxlokk

Constructed by Prof Salvatore Luigi Pisani CMG, MD as his residence in the 1870s, this house was later used as a hotel in the 1910s and then by the Royal Air Force in the 1940s. This long-abandoned mansion on the road to Marsaxlokk is said to be one of the most haunted properties in Malta. People constantly hear weird noises coming from inside the house, and people who have been inside have reported a sense of dread overcoming them throughout all the accessible rooms.

Splendid Hotel – Valletta

This hotel in Strait Street, Valletta, was originally a brothel. Folklore has it that an argument broke out one night between one of the prostitutes and a client of hers. The woman was murdered in a bathroom on the first floor and her spirit is said to walk the empty hallways of the hotel to this very day. Eyewitnesses have reported furniture being hurled across rooms.

Telgha t'Alla w'Ommu – Naxxar

When driving along the road from Salina to the Telgha t'Alla w'Ommu, on the outskirts of Naxxar, many drivers have reported seeing a teenage girl stumbling along the road below the steep hill and trying to flag down drivers as though pleading for help. Those brave enough to stop all say that the girl simply vanished once they got down to try and assist her. Many said that, when they saw the teenager, they pressed down harder on the gas pedal and kept their eyes forward, but that did not work – or turned out worse. When they next looked into their rear-view mirror, they found the girl sitting in the back seat of their car.

The Cathedral in Mdina is said to be one of the most haunted in Malta

The Cathedral in Mdina, and the immediate area around it, are said to be some of the most haunted in Malta. One of the most popular myths has it that the congregation of the cathedral, gathered for Mass one morning, noticed something odd about the old priest that celebrated mass every day. So did the sacristan. The same thing happened the following two days until, late on the third day, the sacristan met a friend of his who told him that the old priest had died four nights earlier in his home. It is said the priest was allowed to continue celebrating mass for three days until another priest was appointed to replace him.

Verdala Palace

Grand Master De Rohan informed his niece that he had chosen a suitor for her and that she was to marry him even though she was *not* attracted to him. When he heard that the girl did not like him, the suitor locked her in her room at Verdala Palace. It is said that she tried to escape out of her window, but fell to her death. Since then, her ghost has roamed around the palace in the iconic blue dress she died in, making her known as the Blue Lady. People say they have seen her reflection in many mirrors around the palace, or standing on the edge of the palace balconies.

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

News, information, culture, history
of the Maltese Islands and beyond

Subscribe: maltesejournal@gmail.com



WELCOME TO OUR NEW
READERS.

WE ONLY COLLECT HAPPY
AND POSITIVE STORIES
FROM OUR READERS ,
WEBSITES AND
NEWSPAPERS

Crime historian Eddie Attard explained that the cases where a person was killed by mistake, are filed in different categories. He mentioned cases where the intention was to kill someone else, with the first case dating back to 1918 in Nadur.

Mr Attard said, “There were two men who loved this girl. The girl, or her parents, had to choose between the two men. One of them was chosen and the other was hurt by the rejection and went to kill the boyfriend. As it turned out, instead of killing the boyfriend, he killed the man’s brother by mistake. There was another case in Zabbar during the village festa, where two men started arguing about the festa decorations. They thought that the issue would stop there but later one of them came back armed with a weapon. He went to look for the other man, didn’t find him and killed another person by mistake.”

The Zabbar murder took place after the Second World War. More recently in this category there was the murder of a Lebanese man in Gzira in 1981. Whoever killed him wanted instead to kill the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who was in Malta at the time, but he confused the man's identity.

Other unfortunate cases include those of individuals who ended up as victims because they tried to break up a fight. One of these was the case of the murder in Xagħra, Gozo in 1974, when a father lost his life while trying to separate his two sons who were fighting.

Mr Attard said “Then there was the tragedy in Naxxar during an argument between two families, when one of the men went to shoot a member of the other family and by mistake killed his wife.”

Over the last 30 years, two women have been innocently killed by an explosion. In 1990, in Qormi, a bomb exploded at the home of an elderly woman who, it turned out, had not been the target of the attack. Another woman died in June 2005 in Zejtun when she removed a garbage bag from near a car which contained a bomb, and the woman was inadvertently killed. The bomb had been intended for the owner of the car. Another case happened in 1940 in Zebbug when a man was killed by mistake by a Police Constable.

"In that case, a man killed his mother-in-law and sister-in-law. He then entered the house, and as soon as the woman's son saw that his mother and sister had been killed, he ran out of the house. They said he was going to fetch the Parish Priest so that he could give the victims their last rites. People began shouting, "that's him, that's him". A police officer told him to stop, but he didn't. The Police officer shot and killed him. The tragedy ended up with three members of the same family being killed, and the person who was responsible for all this, was hanged," Mr Attard said.

Another case at the end of the century involving innocent victims was that of a soldier 1935 who wanted to play a practical joke and ended up killing a chef. Another murder happened in 1952 in Birkirkara which involved an argument between two men, one shot the other, the bullet went astray and killed a mother of nine children who was simply sitting on the doorstep of her home, minding her own business.

**Readers
around the
World**

**this e-newsletter
is preserved at the**



**MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA
MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM -TORONTO
GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY
FACEBOOK - TWITTER**

WEBSITE: ozmalta.page4.me/

Subscribe:

maltesejournal@gmail.com

HISTORY - **MALTESE IN AMERICA**

Maltese American children in traditional costume celebrate their homeland.

The earliest Maltese settlers in the United States came in the mid-eighteenth century, mostly to New Orleans. These settlers were often regarded as Italians, and in fact tombstones sometimes mistakenly noted the deceased as "natives of Malta, Italy." The burial grounds were inscribed with such common Maltese names as Ferruggia (Farrugia), Pace, and Grima. By 1855 there were 116 Maltese living in the United States. In the 1860s, it was estimated that between five and ten Maltese came to the United States every year. The majority of the migrants were agricultural workers, and in New Orleans the majority worked as market

gardeners and vegetable dealers.

The greatest number of Maltese people came to the United States during the first decades of the twentieth century. Their move coincided with the discharge of skilled workers from the Royal British Dockyard in 1919 following the end of the World War I. More than 1,300 Maltese immigrated to the United States in the first quarter of 1920, and most found work in automobile manufacturing. The *Detroit Free Press* reported in October 1920 that Detroit had the largest Maltese population in the United States, at 5,000 residents. In 1922, the *Detroit Free Press* reported that the only Maltese colony in the United States was in Detroit. Over the next few years, it is believed that more than 15,000 Maltese people settled in the United States and became citizens. They apparently intended to stay for a short time and return home. However, opportunities in America seemed more plentiful and stable than the uncertainties at home, and many Maltese people remained in the United States. By 1928 New York had an estimated 9,000 Maltese immigrants. San Francisco also had a large Maltese population.

After World War II, the Maltese government launched a program to pay passage costs to Maltese willing to emigrate and remain abroad for at least two years. As a result, a surge of Maltese left their homeland. In 1954, a reported 11,447 Maltese left the islands. This program enticed approximately 8,000 Maltese to come to the United States between 1947 and 1977. For more than a century Malta's government encouraged emigration because of the tiny size of the overpopulated island nation.

SETTLEMENT Settlement in the United States was concentrated in Detroit, New York City, San Francisco, and Chicago. It has been estimated that more than 70,000 Maltese immigrants and their descendants were living in the United States by the mid-1990s. The largest estimated communities are the more than 44,000 Maltese in the Detroit area and the 20,000 Maltese in New York City, most of them in Astoria, Queens.

ACCULTURATION AND ASSIMILATION Signs of Malta can be seen in fire stations in most cities, small and large, throughout the United States. Firefighters are identified by a badge that designates their company. The majority of badges worn by firefighters take the shape of the Maltese Cross, which is an eight-sided emblem of protection and badge of honor. The history of the cross goes back to the Knights of St. John, who courageously fought for possession of the Holy Land.

Malta's involvement with the United Nations is substantial. The island country became a full member in December 1964 after gaining independence from Great Britain. Issues Malta has been involved in, or spearheaded, include the Law of the Sea Convention in 1981; the United Nations Conference on the Aged; and an initiative to raise questions about the effects of climate change.

There are a number of Maltese influences in United States culture. For instance, many people are familiar with the Maltese, a tiny fluffy white dog. The movie *The Maltese Falcon*, a drama about a detective trying to find a priceless statue, is a classic part of American cinema, although another movie, *The Maltese Bippy*, is less known. Oftentimes people with the surname Maltese are Italian by heritage, not Maltese.

In the United States the Maltese maintain their strong devotion to the Catholic church by attending mass weekly and becoming active in their local parishes. Since attendance among Maltese Americans is high, church is another common place where they meet one another. For instance, in San Francisco, St. Paul

of the Shipwreck Church at 1122 Jamestown Avenue is heavily populated by Maltese. And in Detroit, the Maltese have attended St. Paul's Maltese Church since the 1920s.

Employment and Economic Traditions Many of the Maltese who came to the Detroit area worked on the assembly line at one of the three automakers, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, and Chrysler Corporation. Other Maltese immigrants worked at various jobs on ships, in restaurants and hotels, selling real estate, and in religious orders as priests and nuns.

Politics and Government The Maltese government is a Republic with a president and prime minister. The major political parties are the Malta Labor Party and the Nationalist Party. In Malta, the first American consul was nominated in 1796, which made Malta among the first countries to have a consular office of the United States.

MILITARY Maltese involvement in supporting the United States during war dates back to at least the American Revolution. Maltese seamen enlisted in the French navy, which was supporting the colonists against Great Britain. About 1,800 Maltese sailors went to Toulon to join the French in this effort.

RELATIONS WITH MALTA During the first decade of the nineteenth century American ships brought a variety of goods to Malta, including flour, rice, pepper, salted meat, rum, tobacco, and mahogany wood from Boston and Baltimore, as well as dried fruits, cotton, wax, pearls, goat hides, coffee, potatoes, drugs, and sponges from Smyrne and the Greek archipelago. During 1808, 33 American vessels entered Valletta, Malta's capital city. Trade would rise and fall cyclically. Malta's biggest boon of American shipping was during the Crimean War, between 1854 and 1856, when Great Britain and France were fighting Russia. Malta also emerged as a stepping stone in the wool trade between Barbary and the United States because it received wool from different ports in North Africa for shipment to America. Later, American tobacco was shipped to Barbary and Sicily through Malta. About 1,500 Maltese were employed in making cigars, which were exported to Italy, Barbary, Turkey, and the Greek Islands. Malta also imported petroleum, rum, pepper, flour, logwood, pitch, resin, turpentine, coffee, sugar, cloves, codfish, wheat, cheese, butter, and lard. Meanwhile, the island nation exported to America items such as olive oil, lemons, sulphur, ivory, salt, rags, goat skins, stoneware, soap, squills, sponges, and donkeys of the largest and most valuable race in the Mediterranean.

ACADEMIA Professor Paul Vassallo, formerly of Marsa, Malta, headed a consortium of eight universities in the Washington, D.C. area. The Washington Research Library Consortium is a national model of the U.S. government that demonstrates how university libraries can keep up with the volume of new material. Vassallo, born in 1932, immigrated to the United States when he was 15 years old. His mother and siblings lived in the Detroit area.

FILM, TELEVISION, AND THEATER Joseph Calleia, a Maltese native and actor, appeared in a number of Hollywood movies, including *Wild Is the Wind* in 1957.

MILITARY Joseph Borg went to the United States at the time of the American Revolution. He was described as having been a sea captain who fought in many battles for American independence.

Brigadier General Patrick P. Caruana commanded the 50 B-52 bombers flying out of Saudi Arabia, England, Spain, and the Indian Ocean during the Persian Gulf War of 1991. The fleet pounded the Iraqis incessantly and helped break their morale. Caruana, a St. Louis resident, was also a KC-135 tanker pilot in Vietnam and commanded the 17th Air Division and its fleet of bombers refueling tankers and spy planes.

MUSIC Oreste Kirkop, an opera singer, appeared in *Student Prince*. Legend had it that he was encouraged to change his name to increase his fame, but he refused to take the suggestion and instead returned to Malta.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY John Schembri, a Pacific Bell employee, has two patents to his name and a third pending. He holds degrees in electronics, engineering, mathematics, and industrial relations and is a recognized expert in the design and application of optical fiber transmissions systems. Read more: <http://www.everyculture.com/multi/Le-Pa/Maltese-Americans.html#ixzz5FiOZTNeg>



Maltese

Nhar it-Tlieta, 29 ta' Mejju 2018, Inizjamed se torganizza l-erbgha u għoxrin Palk Hieles tagħha. U din id-darba se tmur fil-qalba tal-istudenti; fil-post fejn l-istudenti jistudjaw u jiċċajtaw u jaqraw u jiktbu wkoll. Din id-darba l-Palk Hieles se jsir fil-Junior College, l-Imsejja,

bi sħab mad-Dipartiment tal-Malti u l-Ingliż. Bla dubju, il-mistiedna speċjali se jkunu l-istudenti nfushom. Dawk li għadhom jattendu u anke dawk li spiċċaw. Il-lezzuri mheggin jaqraw xogħolhom u l-pubbliku ġenerali wkoll. Dan kollu fl-ispazju l-ġdid iddedikat għall-arti: Venue18. Aqraw, isimgħu, għidu storja, għidu ċajtu, doqqu jew kantaw. Tista' taqra xi poezija, storja, tirreċta, tkanta, jew kull haġa oħra li inti tħoss hija artistika u li skontok ta' quddiem in-nies. Kull djalett, kull lingwa, kull stil, huma mhux biss aċċettati imma milqugħa b'idejna t-tnejn. L-ispazju tagħkom! Ingħaqdu magħna għal din l-attività bla ħlas. Min jiġi jista' jipparkja fil-Junior College u wara nservu xi ikel u xorb. Narawkom! U bilhaqq ... dan il-palk hieles se jkun ipprezentat minn żagħżuġh student tal-JC. X'inhu ġej, ħej.

English

Inizjamed is once again organising an evening of Open Mike/Palk Hieles on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at Venue 18, at Junior College Msida for young and old alike to share a poem or a story or a stand-up or music performance with the audience. The protagonists this time are the students themselves who will be lining up to showcase their talents. This is the perfect opportunity for students to share their work in Venue 18, the recently inaugurated artistic venue in the heart of Junior College, a place that they know well! There will be singing, music, reading and more. The event is a collaboration between the Department of Maltese and the Department of English at Junior College.

Everyone is invited. Every language or sound is welcome! Grazzi ferm. Leanne Ellul



Fr. Emanuel Cutajar a missionary in Northern Albania

Father Emanuel Cutajar has been working as a parish priest in the North of Albania for the last seventeen years. Albania has changed considerably since he first set foot on the land, but inherent problems remain. It has

now been accepted as a candidate-member of the European Union. Tirana and the main big towns have certainly become very European. But the small villages, especially in the North, are still lagging behind. It is here, in the North West of the country, that he has found himself grappling with pastoral and social problems, at times bigger than himself, in four remote villages, mainly Catholic, in the Torovice Valley.

I often wonder how I ended up in Albania. And also how I 'survived' that long. Albania is a country of contrasts, both enchanting and infuriating by turns, it has been said. Its mountains, cliffs, lakes, rivers, and

beaches are spectacular, its traditions unique, its history, as of all Balkan countries, turbulent. The country is still recovering from the dark, cruel days of the Communist regime. The atrocities perpetrated by the regime were devastating and dehumanizing.

It's the passion of meeting ordinary people - The Catholic Church was systematically persecuted. Slowly but surely, the Albanians are picking themselves up. They are incredibly resilient and stoically resigned to their fate in the face of innumerable sacrifices. The authorities face numerous challenges, namely bureaucracy, corruption, lack of foreign investments, unemployment, amongst others. It is no wonder that many Albanians have lost faith in their institutions and more than a million have gone abroad seeking a better future for themselves and for their families.



I cannot think of any other reason why I continuously and willingly keep coming back to my missionary work in Albania, except that of its people. The people are affable and hospitable. Their way of living, disarmingly simple. It's the passion of meeting ordinary people, as one CNN journalist put it, whilst referring to the love of her work! I think this is it! Here, I can hear the children play down in the street below! There are no inhibitions at all for the elder altar boys to serve during the Sunday mass or to carry the statue of Our Lady shoulder-high during the May procession.

Indeed, they take great pride in wearing the appropriate vestments and vie for a prominent place on the altar. My parishioners still hold hands together whilst they recite the Our Father during mass. They always have time for a chat and drop all their activity to show you the address of somebody you are looking for. In the Torovice valley, reclaimed from swamps, very few farmers own tractors to help them in their harvests, mainly maize and corn.

Indeed, very few own cars or can afford to keep them. Donkeys are still used as a means of transport, especially to carry wood down from the surrounding, rather steep, mountains. Herds of sheep and goats graze on the sides of the mountains, under the watchful eye of the shepherds. Wolves are always at a striking distance. The place is full of butterflies and birds, including the nightingales, ever so rare on the European continent. In this rural environment, I feel as if I am living, all over again, my boyhood years back in the fifties and sixties in Gozo.

Striking a balance: evangelisation and solidarity - In such an environment, the pastoral endeavours of the Church has been two-pronged: on one side providing the Catholic Community with the religious services they were so blatantly denied of and finally suppressed during the time of the regime; and on the other hand, with the help of Caritas and other charitable organizations, doing its little bit to help out those who are economically distressed.

A big role in the running of the Catholic Church is thankfully played by the various female religious congregations present especially in the North of the country. Besides teaching Catechism and helping out the clergy in the ordinary running of the parish, they are very much involved in voluntary work. Consequently, the people are particularly fond of the nuns, whom they easily connect to the Albanian icon, Saint Mother Teresa. Nuns run clinics and hospitals, kindergartens and schools. They provide lodging for female students attending Universities in the big towns. A case in point is provided by the Sisters of Charity (Sisters of Mother Theresa). These sisters run two old people's homes in Tirana, a home for disabled children in Shkoder, a refuge-home for girls with problems in Durrës and Elbasan. The Social Services of the country are more than thankful to the sisters who gladly take up all those who are the most destitute.

The Catholic Church also boasts of one of the best Medical Schools in the country annexed to the Our Lady of Good Counsel University. The Church has set up technical schools, where students learn trades such as plumbing, electrical installation and mechanical engineering. The Don Bosco Social Centre of Tirana, for example, provides a primary and secondary school, a technical school, a vocational training centre and a youth centre. It is committed to train and educate youths, enabling them to gain a variety of skills. These youths, thereby, can more easily find work and break the cycle of poverty they were born into.



The Eden Cinema in St. Julian's

The largest and most popular cinema complex in Malta

The Eden Cinema is the largest cinema complex in Malta with the **finest projection and digital sound technology**, located in the heart of Malta's entertainment and nightlife capital St. Julian's. The Eden Cinemas Malta has **17 modern, fully air-conditioned screening rooms** and offer the latest and widest choice of films showing both in English and Italian according to the original version.

Eden Cinemas expanded with cinema 16 in 1998 that has one of the largest screens in Europe and 700 seats. It is the only cinema in the Maltese Islands that has a THX certified sound system. The THX guarantees **perfect audio playback**, enhanced by the Dolby Digital-Surround EX that provides a surround sound channel coming from the rear of the cinema.

MALTA FILM FESTIVAL



3rd Malta Film Festival, Event Date: August 25, 2018 to August 26, 2018 - [Eden Cinema Malta](#)

The Eden cinema is the largest cinema complex in Malta with the best projection and digital sound technology. It is located in the Georges bay area of St. Julian's, one of the entertainment nightlife capitals in Malta. The cinema does not only offer excellent movies. Our main mission is to create a bridge between East and West part of the world bring more diversity in to the Mediterranean countries and promote Mediterranean cinema to international audience. To make unfamiliar part of the world, familiar let them know the

beauty of different cultures and build friendship through films but as well help create universal peace through arts and cultural heritage The Festival provides opportunities for independent filmmakers to have their films screened at great red carpet-style venues to a passionate audience of film professionals, film students, journalists and the general public and aims to promote and support independent and Industry filmmaking.

With over 25 award categories, it is also possible for entrants to receive multiple nominations for more than one project. An industry professional jury from Europe, USA and Canada will decide on the winners of each category after the final entry deadline. A selection of the jury's favorite films will be screened at our annual event. Entrants of chosen screening films will be notified prior to the event.



A Lasting Legacy – CANADIAN ACES OF WW2 - MALTA

The Canadian aces—and indeed all the Canadian fighter pilots, from Rouleau, who never made it, to Beurling, whose career was meteoric—played a hugely important role in the Battle of Malta. Given that pilots were chosen for Malta service for their experience, tenacity and abilities, these figures are a testament to the ascendancy of Canadian fighter pilots among the Allies over the course of the war.



These 32 Canadian fighter pilots either made ace status in the Maltese skies or added to their list of victories there. This may not be a full selection of the fighter aces who fought in the skies over Malta, but it's close. Jerry Smith is included though he was one short of ace status, because he belongs in this story for his accomplishment on *Wasp*. Top row (Left to Right): Squadron Leader Irving Farmer "Hap" Kennedy, DFC and Bar; Flight Lieutenant Ian Roy MacLennan, DFM; Squadron Leader Wilbert George "Turkey" Dodd, DFC; Squadron Leader George Urquhart Hill, DFC and 2 Bars; Flight Lieutenant Bruce Johnston Ingalls, DFC; Squadron Leader John Frederick "Mac" McElroy, DFC and Bar; Squadron Leader Roderick "Rod" Smith, DFC and Bar; Flying Officer James Hamilton "Jimmy" Ballantyne, DFM.

Second Row: Wing Commander Robert Alexander "Butch" Barton, OBE, DFC and Bar, MiD; Group Captain Robert Carl "Moose" Fumerton, DFC and Bar, AFC; Flight Lieutenant George Frederick "Buzz" Beurling, DSO, DFC, DFM and Bar; Squadron Leader Henry Wallace "Wally" McLeod, DSO, DFC and Bar; Squadron Leader John Ronald "Jack" Urwin-Mann, DSO, DFC and Bar; Wing Commander Eric Norman "Timber" Woods, DFC and Bar; Wing Commander Geoffrey Wilson "Jeff" Northcott, DSO, DFC and Bar; Squadron Leader Esli Gordon Lapp, DFC.

Third Row: Group Captain Robert Wendell "Buck" McNair, DSO, DFC and Two Bars; Group Captain Percival Stanley "Bull" Turner, DSO, DFC and Bar; Flying Officer George Noel Keith, DFC; Squadron Leader Milton Eardley "Milt" Jowsey, DFC; Pilot Officer Jerrold Alpine "Jerry" Smith; Pilot Officer Claude "Weavy" Weaver, DFC, DFM, MiD; Flying Officer Frederick Albert "Freddy" Wilson, DFC; Flight Lieutenant Garth Edwards Horricks, DFM.

Bottom Row: Flight Lieutenant Dallas Wilbur Schmidt, DFC and Bar; Pilot Officer John William "Willie the Kid" Williams, DFC; Flight Lieutenant Philip Marcel Charron, DFC; Pilot Officer Donald George "Shorty" Reid, DFM; Flight Lieutenant Rodney Thirsk Phipps, DFC; Flight Lieutenant John Fylton Mackie; Flight Lieutenant Frank Everett "Spitfire Man" Jones, DFC.

Most of the photos in this collage come from the superb website AcesOfWW2.com. The website is a massive repository of images, news clippings and histories of the many thousands of aces of the Second World War and a valuable resource for researchers. The project is the personal undertaking of Joe Fukuto of Ottawa, Canada. Vintage Wings of Canada thanks Joe for your stellar work in building this collection. This story was first published in Skies Magazine, 2014



George Buerling
27 Victories

Heroes of World War 2

George Frederick Beurling was born in Canada on 6 December 1921. He joined the RAF early in the war. On 9 June 1942, he arrived in Malta with another 32 pilots in Spitfires flown from the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle. By 27 July 1942, he had scored 17 victories over Malta earning him the Distinguished Flying Cross with a bar. While on the island, he was shot down four times, the last being on 14 October 1942 when he suffered serious injuries and was hospitalised and later sent home.

Buerling was credited with 27 victories over Malta making him the top scoring ace on the island. In 1943, he published an account of his days on Malta entitled 'Malta Spitfire'. He died in 1948 while serving in the Israeli air force.

Lascaris War Rooms – Valletta - Malta



Deep inside the bastion walls of Valletta, these tunnels were once the slave quarters of the Order of St John. In the Second World War they became the secret headquarters of the British and Allied Mediterranean forces, and it was from here that General Eisenhower commanded Operation Husky, the successful invasion of Sicily in 1943. You can still see ops rooms complete with maps, phones and plotting tables, as well as ancient-looking – yet inventive – communication systems. There is an audioguide in English as well as human guides full of additional facts and stories

about Malta's crucial role in the war. The Lascaris War Rooms are underneath the Upper Barracca Gardens so it is easy to visit both on the same outing.

Address: Lascaris Bastion, Valletta
Getting there: Bus to Valletta City Gate bus Terminus (multiple services)
Contact: 00356 21234717; lascariswarrooms.com
Opening times: Daily, 10am-5pm; last tour 4.15pm
Prices: €10; seniors 60 and over and students, €8; children under 16, €5
Payment type: Credit cards accepted
Reservations: Not necessary

[illegible]