

Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**AUSTRALIA DAY
26 JANUARY
2019**



**HOW TO
MAKE A
MALTESE TIMPANA**



BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS OF MALTA





THE TAPESTRIES AT ST. JOHN'S CO- CATHEDRAL

The set of Tapestries at St John's Co-Cathedral was a gift made by the Aragonese Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful to the church upon his election in

1697. The Statute of the Order stated that newly elected Grand Masters would present the conventual church of the Order with a gift on their appointment. The tapestries are the largest complete set in the world and consist of twenty-nine pieces ordered from the weaver Judocus de Vos in Brussels. The set reached Malta by 1702.

The tapestries depict the Triumph of the Eucharist and scenes from the life of Christ. The designs of the tapestries about the Eucharist were based on cartoons made by the Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens that he had originally made for the Infanta Isabella of Spain. The scenes depicting the life of Christ are based on other master pieces by Rubens and Poussin. Fourteen panels represent the Virgin Mary, Christ the Saviour and the Apostles and the Grand Master Perellos's full length portrait complete the set. The tapestries were made to hang from the cornice along the nave of the church during important occasions such as the feast of St John the Baptist. The tapestries were woven entirely from the finest wool and silk yarns and measure six meters in height.

The large dimensions and the exuberant character of the designs make this set one of the most spectacular interpretations of baroque art and brought the most dazzling embellishment to the church. The set of tapestries was one of the most outstanding gifts the church received. This set of tapestries was an expression of the supremacy of the Catholic Church and the munificence of the Grand Master and the Order.

Entrance Fees

The entrance fee includes the provision of handheld audio guides with 24 stops which are available to visitors in these languages (Maltese, English, Italian, French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Russian). All visitors can make use of the free guides.

Why we charge visitors to enter St John's:

The interest in St John's Co-Cathedral results in a high number of visitors but the delicate fabric of the church was not designed for so many visitors. The overhead and maintenance costs are very high. To help us sustain the building and conserve it with all its works of art we request an entrance fee. Conservation programmes are costly and are constantly being carried out to the highest specifications in order to preserve the Church in all its splendour. Our reward is your visit and appreciation.

We do not charge for prayer.

If your intention is to pray please inform the staff at the main entrance and you will be guided to the designated chapel.





400 years guarding the channel

Report: Mario Micallef

Video: Jan Mifsud

The Santa Marija Tower on Comino is a characteristic feature on the small island. It was built in 1618 by Grand Master Alof de Wigncourt and took two years to be constructed.

The Comino tower guardian, Joseph Attard, said "it was built to defend the islands from sea

pirates and other people who used to raid the islands and rob farmers who lived here".

Mr Attard stated that there is no documentation that the tower was involved in any battle. It was a watch tower which, together with Chambrai Fort and Torri l-Ahmar, formed part of a chain to deliver important messages to the north of Malta. During the last century, he said, it was under the direction of the Armed Forces which regularly stationed troops to guard against contraband activities.

In the year 2000, the tower fell under the responsibility of NGO society, Din l-Art Ħelwa, which started an ambitious project for its restoration, through a 10-year agreement with the Government which may be extended.

Mr Attard said that between 12,000 and 15,000 persons visit the tower each year and is regularly open between April and October, while organized tours are held on other days for groups and schools, and also for events.

"The tower consists of three layers with stairs, and in a lower room there are spaces where animals and other objects used to be kept. On the roof, the tower was armed with canons and defence equipment". With a 400-year history, the Comino Tower is the most imposing building on the island, however it is not the only historic building as on another side of Comino there is the Santa Marija Battery.

The battery, built facing Marfa in 1715, formed part of a defence system on the area between Comino and Malta. It was built at a later time when the Ottoman Empire started losing its strength and dangers of invasion were not great in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

Asked if the canons are original, Mr Attard said "two of them are certainly original; the others were also found in the area and were always here, as far as we know".

Din l-Art Ħelwa, which also caters for the battery, has just received funds for routine maintenance of the battery.

A few metres away from the tower there is another big building of the last century, built as an isolation hospital. It is adjacent to another older structure, similar to a small farm, which has a renowned name.

'We call it the Grand Master's Palace, which is older than the Santa Marija tower, where the Grand Master used to come on the island for hunting and some resting time".

Another place at a higher ground on the island is the cemetery, which has been vacant since 1968.

"There were remains of persons who were in the services, some Germans who were repatriated, and when they were identified, their relatives were found. Today the Comino cemetery is empty".

*Thank
you*

Sincere congratulations on the award given to you in Malta. Well and Truly deserved. All that you do to keep our customs and traditions alive even though we are so far away from the Country of our birth is truly appreciated by All who read your Journal of the Maltese Diaspora. We wish you further success and may good health, happiness and God's Blessings be with you and your Family throughout 2019 Best Regards. Maria and Armando Catania Victoria

Australia

Congratulations Frank on being bestowed the Maltese National Order of Merit.

Venny & Carmen Spiteri – South Australia

The Consul General for Malta in Melbourne



Ms. Joanna Pisani joined the Civil Service in 1976. After 12 years working within the Ministry of Agriculture, she moved to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she headed the Scholarships Section for 15 years, during which time she was awarded a Quality Service Charter.

In 2003, she was appointed Deputy Consul General of Malta in Sydney until 2008. On her return to Malta on 1 March 2008, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Protocol within the Protocol and Consular Section Directorate of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consequently, on 17 September 2009, she was appointed Acting Director, Protocol and Consular Services, and on 24 November 2011, she was appointed Director, Protocol and Consular Services.

On 1 July 2015, she was appointed Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Malta in Dublin until 13 August 2017 and on 15 August 2017 was appointed Consul General of Malta in Melbourne.

Ms Joanna Pisani, Consul General for Malta in Victoria, has informed the Maltese Community Council of Victoria that she will be leaving her current posting in Melbourne in January 2019. Ms Pisani started her posting in Melbourne in August 2017. She advised that she will be leaving to take up a posting in Malta's diplomatic mission in Israel. The MCCV is yet to be advised of Ms Pisani's replacement but will make an announcement about the new appointee once this is made known.

The MCCV would like to thank Ms Pisani for all her support to the Maltese community of Victoria, always approaching her work with a smile and making herself available at many community events.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

To Mr Frank Scicluna. Please accept our sincere congratulations on receiving the Maltese National Order of Merit. Your dedication and enthusiasm for Malta, its people and culture have been justly rewarded. Cr. Edgar Agius OAM JP- President and delegates of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Linking individuals, generations
and communities

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The Maltese
e-Newsletter
is read and
enjoyed by
thousands
of readers from
all over the world



Fr Tarcisio Micallef's 80th Birthday Celebration



The Maltese Community Council of Victoria
together with

The Missionary Society of St. Paul

are organising a function to celebrate

Fr Tarciso Micallef's 80th Birthday

Everyone is invited to attend to share some wonderful memories of the past with him.

Date: Saturday, 2nd February 2019

Venue: Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville

Mass will be held at St Paul's Chapel in Parkville at 6.00 pm

Gathering at the Centre at 7.00 pm

Donation: \$15 per person

Dress: Smart Casual

For tickets, ring MCCV Social Secretary, Mrs Rita Pullicino, on 0404 630 351

or MCCV PRO, Mr Joe Stafrace, on 9848 4786 or 0466 589 553

Do not miss out! It promises to be a Great Night!

Quddiesa għall-Kittieba u Gurnalisti Għawdxin - Stedina

Fl-okkażjoni tal-festa ta' San Frangisk de Sales, Arċisqof ta' Ginevra u Patrun tal-Gurnalisti li taħbat il-**Hamis** 24 ta' Jannar 2019, dak inhar stess fil-5pm il-Gurnalisti u Kittieba Għawdxin huma mistiedna li jattendu għall-Quddiesa mill-E.T.Mons Isqof Mario Grech li ser issir apposta għalihom fil-Knisja tas-Sorijiet Frangiskani tal-Qalb ta' Gesu fi Triq Palma Victoria. Wara l-quddiesa l-Gurnalisti u kittieba jiltaqgħu flimkien għal Drinks tal-okkażjoni f'waħda mis-swali tal-Kunvent. Grazzi lis-Sorijiet għad-disponibila tagħhom. Bhal kull sena din l-okkażjoni hija organizzata mill-Kurja t'Għawdex flimkien mal-Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin.

Kav Joe M Attard - Seg. Għaqda Gurnalisti Għawdxin



In Loving Memory of
CARMELO (CARMENU, CHARLES) BALDACCHINO
Born 18 June 1932 at Zejtun, Malta
Died: 2 January 2019 in Adelaide, SA
Son of Vincenzo and Antonia Baldacchino (deceased)
Husband to Lora for 66 years
and father and father-in-law of
Rosemary and John, Jim and Lina (deceased)
Virginia and Peter, David and Lily and Vincent and Ilona
Grand-father of fifteen and great-grandfather of nine
Survived by his brother Nazzarenu - Zejtun, Malta
A loved member of the Maltese Community of South
Australia and devoted member of the Maltese Queen of
Victories Band since 1981
R.I.P



Technologically advanced new Maltese passport ready by end of year

“The Maltese people are very keen on travelling and are fond of culture and heritage too; three elements that will be captured in the new Maltese passport, which will gradually make its way later this year,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Procedures, Julia Farrugia Portelli, during her visit to the De La Rue Head Quarters in Basingstoke and Portals De La Rue Paper Mill in Bathford UK.

The gradual introduction of the new passport, which will take place over a span of years, will start towards the end of 2019. The new travel document will be issued on application for a new passport or upon renewal. Existing passports in circulation will remain valid and fit for travel until their expiry date. Upon renewal, the new passport will be issued for no additional charge.

Parliamentary Secretary claimed that the new travel document will incorporate cutting-edge technology and additional security features. Although the Maltese passport is highly secure, conforming to the highest international standards, the Parliamentary Secretary held that the new travel document will have additional security features which will further prevent the counterfeiting of the document.

During her visit to Portals De La Rue Paper Mill, Farrugia Portelli, who was accompanied by Identity Malta Agency officials, could witness the production of the first set of security paper, which came to an end earlier on Thursday and will be sent to De La Rue Malta for printing.

Amongst other features, the data found on the bio-page will be laser engraved on a polycarbonate card which will be incorporated in the new passport. Apart from this, the new travel document will be printed on a highly sensitive, but secure paper, that will include hidden security features and encrypted techniques using UV and visible fibres, high quality cylinder mould watermarks and security thread. The new passport will still have biometric features and an embedded chip, which are used to verify the person's identity.

The inner pages of the new passport will depict imagery of renowned Maltese landmarks as well as of our cultural heritage. The intricate imagery, combined with a highly sophisticated layer of security features, will be printed in secure ink that was primarily designed for security and not simply aesthetic reasons.

Furthermore, Identity Malta Agency reiterates its commitment towards making its services more accessible. Following a series of meetings with the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) and the Foundation for ICT Accessibility (FITA), Identity Malta intends to facilitate the use of Maltese passport for the visually impaired, which will result in a higher independence.

At Portals De La Rue Paper Mill, the Parliamentary Secretary inaugurated a new design room where she praised the company for its sound ethical performance and green agenda.

The Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana

The Hon. Dr Justyne Caruana is the Minister for Gozo since June 2017.

She was first elected to Parliament in 2003 and successively in 2008, 2013 and 2017, always from her native Gozo constituency. She served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing from 2014 to 2017. In Opposition she was Spokesperson for Youth, Culture, Sports, Family, Children and Persons with Disability.



As head of the Maltese Parliament's delegation to the Parliament Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), she also serves on the gender equality task force and is rapporteur of the first committee on political affairs. Caruana was regional representative of the UK, British Isles and Mediterranean Region on the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and currently represents Malta on its Regional British Isles and Mediterranean Steering Committee. In 2016, Dr. Caruana

was nominated as Malta's ambassador in the Women in Parliaments Global Forum.

Dr Caruana has travelled widely for study and parliamentary purposes and represented Malta at various ministerial meetings and other high-level international fora.

She is a member of Social Affairs Committee. Former member of the Public Accounts Family and Standards Committee for the Family, which was set up by virtue of a Motion in Parliament which Hon Caruana sponsored with another two members of Parliament.

A Lawyer by profession, Dr Justyne Caruana specializes in family law, canonical and civil litigation, and is an examiner at the University of Malta. She is married to Silvio Valletta and mother to Joséphine and Jean.

LifeCycle to offer psychological support to renal patients



LifeCycle (Malta) Foundation, through the newly established project entitled Renal Unit Support Health Hub (R.U.S.H.), is to offer psychological support to current kidney patients, in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Psychologists. It will be introducing a voucher scheme whereby patients will be able to receive free initial psychology therapy.

Psychological support will be Lifecycle's main focus for 2019. It is a known fact that renal patients undergoing

dialysis or transplant procedures suffer from serious psychological issues that are often overlooked. This complex condition poses multiple challenges, and the LifeCycle Foundation will be assisting on these challenges through R.U.S.H.

LifeCycle Founder Alan Curry said: "Although renal patients receive medical support from their respective hospitals and clinics, they also need continuous help from psychologists, dieticians, nutritionists, trainers and family councillors. As LifeCycle, we strongly believe that a meaningful and holistic support framework needs to be established, in collaboration with medical professionals, in order for this to be done in a sustainable and durable manner. The increasing number of Maltese kidney patients and their families will, in due course, see and feel an improvement in their quality of life, notwithstanding their difficulties."

For the past 19 years, LifeCycle Foundation has been focussing solely on assisting renal patients in Malta in a tangible manner. Renal failure is a deadly, painful, multi-faceted disease and considering that the

prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and obesity is on the increase, more people may be at a greater risk of kidney failure in the future.

LifeCycle Chairperson Dr Shirley Cefai said: "Through R.U.S.H., our aim is to be able to offer a comprehensive support network for renal patients. Apart from psychological support, the programme will include disease and nutritional awareness, specialised lectures, fitness and walking activities, as well as targeting the determinants that cause kidney disease, which can be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle. Over the coming years, we will be integrating this concept into a holistic support system for renal patients - a unique system which, as a voluntary organisation with finite resources, has been in our sights for a number of years."

Since 1999, LifeCycle Foundation has consistently focused on raising awareness on renal failure and on raising funds for renal patients. The funds collected from the yearly LifeCycle Challenge go towards essential life-saving equipment and improved facilities, such as dialysis machines, the sponsoring of the Twilight Shift Van, the software matching programme *Traccia*, the annual trip to Lourdes for patients and accompanying medical staff and towards kidney disease research at the University of Malta.

Citizens' Rights Meeting for UK Nationals living in Malta



**British
High Commission
Malta**

The British High Commissioner Stuart Gill held a "Town Hall" meeting in Malta for UK nationals working and living on the Maltese islands. A meeting is also planned for Gozo in due course.

In a statement the BHC said that these UK Nationals are invited to this Citizens' Rights Meeting, where Stuart Gill will answer questions regarding the status of their rights following Britain's departure from the European Union. Representatives from the Maltese government was also participate.

The High Commission announced further meetings in due course in its continuous effort to reach as many British citizens in Malta and Gozo as possible. The meeting, was held at the AX Seashells Resort in Qawra and I was free and open to all interested UK nationals.

High Commissioner Gill commented: "Our strong and deep relationship with Malta will endure long after the UK leaves the EU."

"This event and future meetings will help give clarity to UK nationals on the status of their rights following our departure from the EU. I encourage British citizens working and living in Malta and Gozo to attend and join the debate," he added. More information on what the UK's departure from the European Union means for UK nationals surf the net.



The Journal of Maltese Living in Malta and Abroad is archived at

- ❖ The Malta Migration Museum - Valletta
- ❖ Gozo National Library
- ❖ Maltese-Canadian Archives

- ❖ FACEBOOK – www.facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3/
- ❖ Our website: www.ozmalta.com

PUTTINU CARES CHILDREN'S
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP



Puttinu earmarks property in London for Maltese patients

New block of apartments will cost €25 million

Puttinu Cares has earmarked a plot in central London to accommodate most of the Maltese treated in the UK as the numbers continue to increase.

At the moment, Puttinu owns 19 apartments and rents another six in Sutton, which mainly host those receiving treatment at the Royal

Marsden Hospital.



Puttinu Cares vice-chair Angele Cuschieri and CEO Rennie Zerafa

Rent and maintenance, which includes insurance, local taxes, utility bills, internet services and a Maltese telephone line in each apartment, costs €250,000 a year. This excludes unplanned costs for maintenance, with the most recent expense of €30,000 to repair the roof of a block of apartments. The number of patients treated in the UK continues to increase – from 30 to 40 patients a month to

between 60 and 90.

85% of the patients – children and adults – who are flown to the UK for treatment, receive care in central London, away from Sutton. This sees Puttinu spending a further €600,000 to accommodate or partly-sponsor the families of these patients. *Number of patients treated in the UK continues to increase* Treatment could take days, weeks or years, with one particular child having been told he would be spending around eight years there. For this reason, Puttinu has been looking for property in London that would accommodate more than 30 patients and their families, co-founder Rennie Zerafa said.

The NGO is adding colour to the Rainbow Ward. Photos: Jonathan Borg



A plot has been identified in the Euston Road area, just 15 minutes away from Great Ormond Street Hospital on foot.

The NGO is waiting on the London planning authorities for the go-ahead.

In the meantime, a group of Maltese volunteers have already pledged to help finish the property, which Puttinu plans on being a self-sustainable, Mr Zerafa noted.

Mr Zerafa said the block of apartments could include, among others, office space that could be rented out so that the income covers the

maintenance expenses of the apartments. The total cost of the project is expected to reach €25 million, and the donations received so far cover half the cost.

"We never dreamed there would be so many people seeking treatment in the UK, and we are being very careful with this investment. As they say, measure twice, cut once," Mr Zerafa said.

While the new investment picks up steam, Puttinu is focusing on adding colour to the Rainbow Ward at Mater Dei Hospital, with each room getting bespoke drawings of cartoon characters.

Donations of €6.99 can be made on 5061 8939, and donors can also call on 5160 2007 to give €10, 5170 2006 to give €15 and 5180 2008 to give €25. Log on to www.puttinucare.org for more information.

Timesofmalta.com



National Volunteer Award 2018

The National Volunteer Award was organised for the seventh consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and in the presence of the Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organisations. This year the

National Volunteer was complimented by three other awards which were the Youth Volunteer Award, the Volunteer Organisation Award and the Special Award for Voluntary Work in the Community.

The aim of the National Awards is to give broad recognition to the service done by the volunteers and Voluntary Organisations within the community, create awareness of the exemplary values displayed by the volunteers and organisations with the goal of locating role models for youth and wider society; and to recognise the important contributions made in various fields.

The Award Ceremony was held on the 5th of December 2018 at the Presidential Palace where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Hon. Dr. Clifton Grima, Parliamentary Secretary of the Youth, Sports and Voluntary Organisations accompanied by Dr. Noel Camilleri, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.



The National Volunteer Award is aimed to award individual volunteer who has contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. The voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards a particular field and should ideally have served as an inspiration to others. This year's National Volunteer Award went to Ms. Marjoe Abela from the Malta Girl Guides.

The Volunteer Organisation Award which is awarded to a Voluntary Organisation who has been outstanding in the sector in which it operates, being both innovative in its

approach and services within the community as well as in its way of recruiting and supporting volunteers, was awarded to Dr. Klown.

The Youth Volunteer Award which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years and is aimed to promote volunteering amongst young people was awarded to Mr. Kyle Mifsud, a volunteer with the Malta Red Cross.

For the first time the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector decided to present a Special Award for voluntary work undertaken by an individual within the community. This award was given to Mr. George Agius, also known to many as Gorg tal-Muzew or Gorg l-Għannej tal-Mulej, who has dedicated his life to care for the less fortunate in less fortunate circumstance by visiting and supporting individuals both in hospitals and in prison.

Towards the end of the event H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca was presented with a commemorative stamp that was issued to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.

During this event, which was presented by Mr. Glen Chircop, singer Mr. Ozzy Lino together with the Police Brass Band interpreted various songs.



Former AFM patrol boat added to US National Register of Historic Places

A Vietnam-era patrol boat that was used by the Armed Forces of Malta for decades before returning to the United States has been added to

the National Register of Historic Places, the San Diego Union Tribune has reported.

The 51-foot long Swift boat joins three other museum ships on the register, which identifies buildings, sites and objects considered worthy of preservation because of their historic and cultural significance.

The vessel, named C24 and later P24 by the AFM, spent many years in Maltese service, and was eventually retired in 2012. It was handed over to the Maritime Museum of San Diego, where it was restored. Today it is used for 75-minute tours around San Diego bay, bringing back many memories for Vietnam war veterans. The P24's sister vessel, the P23, is still displayed at the AFM Maritime Squadron's Haywharf base.

That particular vessel had been at the centre of a horrible tragedy in 1984, when an explosion took place while illegal fireworks were being disposed of at sea. Five soldiers and two police officers were killed. Another soldier, the only survivor, was severely injured. The C23, as it was named then, was repaired and went back into service as the P23. It was decommissioned in 2010.

The P23 and P24 spent more than 40 years in AFM service. They were donated to Malta by the US in 1971, after having been used to train military personnel for the Vietnam War.

"Swift boats, so-named because of their speed and agility, were adapted from Gulf of Mexico oil-rig vessels and used during the war to patrol the Vietnamese coastline, intercepting supplies headed to the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army," the San Diego Union Tribune said.

"They also went up and down the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta for troop extractions and other special operations. About 3,600 men served on swift boats during the war, including John Kerry, the former senator and U.S. secretary of state, who received a Silver Star for his actions on board one in 1969."

The P24, now formally known as PCF 816 (patrol craft fast), never went to Vietnam, having been used in the States during the war before coming to Malta.

"PCF 816 is a tangible reminder of the service and dedication of so many swift boat sailors and allows visitors the opportunity to better understand what they sacrificed," said Kevin Sheehan, the museum's librarian and manager of collections.

The other vessels on the National Register of Historic Places are the Star of India, launched in 1863 and now the world's oldest active sailing ship; the Berkeley, an 1898 steam ferry that spent 60 years operating in San Francisco Bay; and the Pilot, built in 1914 in San Diego and now the oldest active pilot boat in the country.

MALTESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO HONORS VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

As November 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the end of "the war to end all wars" (WW I), it is a time of remembrance and recognition as well as an opportunity to give gratitude to all the men and women who have sacrificed so much.

The Maltese community of the San Francisco Bay Area, through the initiative of the Maltese Historical Society (MHS), led by president Mona Vella Nicholas, and with the support and cooperation of the Honorary Consul General of Malta in San Francisco, Mr. Louis J. Vella, hosted an event on November 18 at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco to recognize and honor the Maltese-American servicemen

who were deployed to Vietnam or served during the Vietnam era. Twenty two veterans and their families were able to attend the crowded function.

This is not the first time that the MHS has recognized Maltese-American veterans. Previously, the MHS has honored those Maltese-American veterans who were in the Armed Forces of the U.S. during the Korean Conflict; and on the 75th anniversary of the awarding of the George Cross to Malta in 1942, an event was held to remember those who served in Malta during WW II.

Following the introduction by the Maltese Club president, Brian Ciappara, and the playing of the national anthems of Malta and the United States of America, Mona Vella Nicholas related a brief history of the Vietnam era. This was followed by an address by the Honorary Consul General, Louis J. Vella, who not only acknowledged the planning, effort and dedicated work accomplished by the MHS to bring this event to fruition, but also connected the Vietnam conflict with the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM).

With the conclusion of the war in the early 70s, the people of the U.S. generously donated two Patrol Craft Fast (PCF, also known as Swift boats) to the people of Malta. The PCFs were used for 41 years by the AFM for interdiction of contraband, and for patrolling the waters around Malta. Tragically, on September 7, 1984 on one of those missions, one of the Swift boats was carrying a large load of illegal fireworks, seized by law enforcement. As the Swift boat was on its way to dispose of them off Gozo, the fireworks exploded, killing 5 of the 6 AFM personnel as well as two policemen. The heavily damaged PCF was repaired and returned in service until both PCFs were decommissioned in 2012. The one that had been involved in the accident is now on display at AFM Maritime Squadron's Haywharf base as a memorial to those 7 men who lost their lives. The other Swift boat was returned to the U.S. where it is now displayed and operated as a tour boat at the San Diego Maritime Museum. As it sails in San Diego Bay, it proudly flies the American and Maltese flags on its stern.

After the address, each of the Maltese-American veterans was introduced and given the opportunity to expound on their Vietnam/Vietnam era duties and experiences. Although each had his own story to tell, all expressed their gratitude for the recognition by the MHS, and indicated that this was the first time many of them had received accolades for their service during the Vietnam era.

Each veteran was then called on stage to receive a certificate of service and a "Vietnam Era Veteran" patch which was presented by Hon. Consul Vella and Mr. Mike Dimech, vice president of the MHS.

Following the presentations, the veterans, their families and members of the Maltese club were treated to refreshments that had been prepared by the MHS and volunteers from the Maltese Club.



Photograph courtesy of Charles Vella, Phd

Pictured in the photo above are the attendees:
Front row, left to right: Pauline Henderson (accepting for her brother SP4 Tony Scerri, U.S. Army), E3 Vincent Attard, U.S. Navy, BT2 Charles Camilleri, U.S. Navy, SP4 Richard Cairns, U.S. Army, Mona Vella Nicholas (Maltese Historical Society President), Honorable Louis Vella (Honorary Consul General for Malta), Brian Ciappara (President of the Maltese-

American Social Club)

Second Row, left to right: SP4 George Borg, U.S. Army, 05 Cdr. Fred Aquilina, U.S. Navy, Ret., Ida Aquilina (accepting for her brother E3 Raymond Muscat, U.S. Army), SP4 Chris Borg, U.S. Army, SP4 Charles Abela, U.S. Army, SP4 Ron Borg, U.S. Army, E4 Peter Schembri, U.S. Army, SP5 George Spiteri, U.S. Army, E5 Lewis Vella, U.S. Air Force, E3 Pacik Agius, U.S. Navy, E3 Victor Debono U.S. Army.



Australia Day Celebration

Organised by the

Maltese Community Council of NSW

Time: 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

20th January 2019

Entry & Parking Free,

Holroyd Function Centre

Light Refreshment are Served

Waratah Room

17 Miller Street Merrylands

Join us, and help celebrating Austral Day, all welcome Maltese Give thanks to our adopted country.

China Cultural Centre - Malta

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

IN VALLETTA 2019

Artistic Performance

by Fujian Quanzhou

Culture and Art Troupe

Sunday, 20th January, 2019 @19:30

City Theatre, Old Bakery Street, Valletta

FREE TICKETS from ticketline.com.mt

Co-organised by China Cultural Centre in Malta
and Quanzhou Municipal Bureau of Culture, Radio, Television, Press
and Publication in collaboration with Quanzhou Museum of Art
(Quanzhou Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center).



**AUSTRALIA
DAY
2019**

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC INVITATION



The Maltese Community Council invites
all Maltese to join in the Australia Day Parade
which will be held on Saturday 26 January 2019.

The Parade will start at 6.00 pm in Franklin Street and proceed
along King William Street to Elder Park.

Maltese have taken part in the Parade for several years,
however we were unable to do last year

and we are hopeful of being able to again represent
our culture, heritage and roots at next year's Parade.

So why not come along, bring your family members,
demonstrate your pride in your heritage and your adopted country.

Should you wish to have further details please

do not hesitate to contact the MCC Secretary,

Carmen Spiteri on 0401136673 who will be more than happy to assist.

On behalf of the MCC I thank you for your assistance.

**You are invited to send community
announcements, articles, comments at no charge
This journal belongs to YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

COUNCIL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established in Malta by means of Act XX of 2011 and is composed of representatives of Maltese communities and others with the aim of promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad and to strengthen further the relations with the Maltese who live abroad, including the new generations.

The yearly meeting is characterized by discussions, proposals, recommendations and decisions on various issues affecting Maltese communities abroad.

These proposals, recommendations and decisions serve as a basis for the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Promotion in conjunction with government line ministries, departments and agencies. Minister Abela, the Council's president, made reference to the fact that in this year's edition of the council there will be discussions regarding the possibility of establishing regional committees so that a greater number of Maltese living abroad will have the opportunity to participate actively in initiatives relating to the Maltese diaspora. "The future of our diaspora should be a major challenge and it also brings opportunities in different areas such as business, culture and education."

50 YEARS AFTER!



Victor Vella (New South Wales – Australia)

After a Christmas service organised for 3 or 4 parishes, I had the pleasure to meet a seminarian who introduced himself as of Maltese-Dutch extraction.. He was as tall as a church tower, and looked as robust and bearded as a Russian Orthodox cleric. His only contribution to the Maltese language was the 'Sahha' at the end of our short conversation. Then when back home we sat down for the Christmas dinner with all the family for a backyard BBQ, I thanked the English language with which we could all communicate. The root cultures were as diverse as the pebbles on the shore: my wife and I were the only born -and -bred Maltese, my daughter married to an Aussie -Italian, my son to a German/Italian/Aussie and my other son to a British/Aussie partner, all

partaking of a very Aussie Christmas dinner of prawns and lobster and salmon and Tasmanian beer.

I realise that this is global situation these days: the process of migration has become an endemic, part and parcel of everyday life. Some people mostly political diehards bewail the passing of identities, meaning adherence to old party ideologies. The majority however has left one and adopted another and they respond to a Maltese-Australian, or Australian- Maltese, or Australian - Maltese with a Dutch texture or features. ...With the general conclusion of : Who cares?

Issues, ideologies, politics and identities are all puppets which the average person keeps hidden in cupboards. They become alive or achieve some breathing at the time of elections. For most of the time individuals lead their daily life without bothering about politics, and identities and abuses. They are stirred to life by the media, but the individual is mainly interested in his own work, his own living, maybe his own family. It is still a small world, in which political involvement for the majority seems to begin and end periodically at the voting booth.

At a recent b'day dinner for an 80 year old migrant, I was surprised how most of the guests I spoke to, cared very little about their country of origin, with all that is happening there politics, the economy etc. Australia is their home and apart from an occasional visit and using it as a departure lounge for other flights and cruises, for them Malta is lost in the mist of time.

The process of migration, as all history, has become the political football, with the left bringing in the departure as a cause of lack of employment, the result of bad management, of colonialism and other isms.. The right sees migration as an adventure, as a challenge, in a way as 'spreading the world'. Whatever that is. During a forum with retirees of various occupational/cultural backgrounds I confirmed this conclusion: that many left or had the courage to leave because they wanted to explore the world with its challenges. They wanted to face a major challenge in life which could change their way of living and expand horizons. This is man, the living man, the explorer, the adventurous, one may add, the dreamer.

And in many cases, their hope and dreams were fulfilled and came to fruition. The yoke of departure so called by some, has turned into a ploughshare with which they improved their life and they did well and contributed to the growth and improvement and progress of their new-found country. There was and most probable still exists criticism re the cultural and educational background of the migrants of the 50 and 60'ties which then kept the Maltese handicapped in his new country. This is usually coloured and underlined by the political dimension, mentioned above. These lamentations affected not only the Maltese but the Italians and the Greeks, who were also fleeing from war-devastated Europe after World war 2. All these ethnics started their new life in cultural 'enclaves' as multiculturalism was not yet born. But the struggle to be accepted, to participate in the new way of life though it entailed hardships and disappointments proved to be part of the process of the growth of the individual. He/She discovered what he is capable of, that he can stand on his own two feet, without in many cases any family or political support. He came face to face with what ...called the 'I culture', relying on oneself whether to read a train timetable, or understand the language of the pub or even feel the resentment of feeling different.

Institutions helped to build bridges. In the State of Victoria alone, there were according to a comprehensive study entitled 'Under one Umbrella' by Profs.Maurice N. Cauchi close to 40 associations to assist the Maltese migrant to find his niche in the new society and keep in touch with the old friends and culture. Memories rush in of the pioneering days of institutions I was involved with nostalgic connections in an Australian setting, meetings of middle aged people establishing farms and businesses

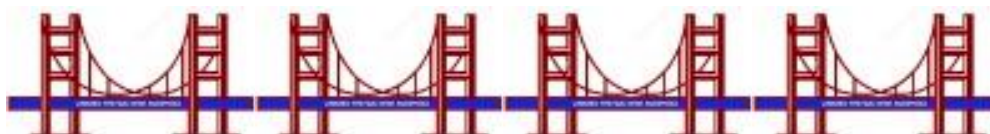
, clearing trees to build houses, starting families, coping with factory work and travel and the loneliness and the distances.

For various reasons and excuses religion is part of the Maltese identity. In the process of migration it was the single and I would say the strongest unifying force in the community. Proof of this are the number of groups religious or semi-religious who mushroomed wherever the Maltese migrant set foot. The priest was a strong unifier who managed to supersede the remnants of village rivalry and competition and to some extent the personal animosities and jealousies and party politics of the time. Over all the priests were the real leaders, admired and appreciated by the majority. Proof of this are the clubs/institutions /centres still functioning and supported by the dwindling first generation migrants. Two of the major Maltese migrant centres, La Vallette Social Centre in N.S.W and the Maltese Centre.....in Melbourne, Victoria were all the fruit of the dedication and leadership of the various priests which still stand and function as the lighthouses of the Maltese community.

This process and activity by the Church was not considered beneficial in some quarters. It was seen as an. unwelcome process, as being a carbuncle on the behind of emigration...with the migrant bringing over with him, the 'burden of belief' as someone put it. They saw this process as divisive and as backward leaning to a 'faith- full' past. There was a general feeling (within their circle but well publicised in their media) that processions and statues were outdated and should have been left behind. However they enjoyed the fireworks!

The migrant did not transfer with him the 'good': there was also the bad and the ugly. This took the form, which after all and I dare say is part of our identity: division and fragmentation. Whereas religion provided a form of umbrella to harbour the community, they reared their ugly heads. The list of clubs listed by Prof Cauchi gives some idea of the quality and diversity of these institutions. One may say variety is bliss. In N.S.W besides the village feast clubs, there were divisions based on sport, politics, education, entertainment. The educated /professionals had their own and some kept away altogether from the general Maltese public, except when they were chosen as leaders of some group or other. Suffice it to say that a situation like this made the problem of lack of leaders problematic with either the musical-chairs syndrome where x pushes y into the presidency and after 5 years the reverse happens. It was also a fertile field for the growth of minor dictators with a bleating herd to follow! It also produced a good crop of amateur leaders who found themselves in some seat of power instead of sitting on humble chairs with receptive ears ready to learn.

The process of migration is very similar to the process of belief, whether in faith or love or music. It is a process which speaking generally one learns to like it not love it by accomodating oneself to a new culture. The way this process operates depends on the individual: the country itself plays its part. In our case Australia played its part by having all the requisites of a very free country. Even more so now that multiculturalism was accepted some....40 years ago. This made the accomodation of migrants a slow process but a process which was accepted legally and culturally, and in many cases neighbourly. This was assimilation if I may use ... by a subtle form of persuasion without much pressure. In the case of the Maltese migrant this was partly assisted, some may say too much, by the influence of our past, our history including the fact that we were British colonials for 160 years. So the Maltese migrant already had some idea if not a good command of the local language. She also had in some manner and degree some familiarity with local institutions such as schooling, democracy, and legal processes. All these assisted in the settlement of the migrant. He found himself in a an environment which is free and generally accomodating which sustains the development of character and of a personality. All this helped the migrant to pick and choose. Which he did. In many cases and when everything is taken in consideration, he can well conclude that it was a successful venture both for the receiving country but more not less for the individual who crossed the seas to embark on a new venture: life in another country.



BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

Launching of a North American-wide Maltese community newsletter

Mr Dan Brock has issued the first of what he hope to be a regular bi-monthly issue of a free, electronic newsletter serving the Maltese community throughout North America and those interested in aspects of the Maltese presence on this continent.

If you wish to receive copies of *The Maltese Presence in North America*, you will need to let him know by an email so that your name can be added to the list for this publication. dbrock40@worldline.ca



**GHAQDA FILANTROPIKA
TALENT MOSTI**

L-GHAQDA FILANTROPIKA TALENT MOSTI U R-RAZZETT TAL-MARKIŻ FIL-MOSTA

minn Rita Demicoli

Lejn tmien is-sena 1983, l-Għaqda kien jismha "Grupp Talent Mosti" u kienet twaqqfet fi ħdan l-Oratorju tal-Qalb ta' Ġesu tal-Mosta. Permezz ta' l-impenn soċjali tagħha, sa mill-bidunett kien il-ħsieb li torganizza attivitajiet kulturali f'ambejnt lokali Mosti u li minnhom tgħin u tferraħ lill-proxxmu li jkun jeħtieġ appoġġ mill-Komunita'.



IL-KUMITAT CENTRALI 2016-2017:

President: Joe Bartolo, Viċi President: Louis Vassallo
Segretarju: Mario Bugeja, Assistent Segretarju: Eric Frendo
Uffiċjal Relazzjonijiet Pubbliċi: Rita Demicoli
Teżorier: Felix Demicoli Assistent Teżorier: Marthese Cassia
Direttur: Nathaniel Zammit
Attivitajiet Soċjali: Alfred Farrugia
Assistent Attivitajiet Soċjali: Alfred Cassia

illum sar genna żgħira għal kull min iħobb jimraħ fid-drawwiet imġhodlija jew biex juri talenti artistici li għoġbu jislifu Alla. L-attivitajiet ivarjaw minn daww purament artistici għal oħrajn b'xejra letterarja għal oħrajn b'aspett reliġjuż jew folkloristiku. Jiġu organizzati wkoll wirjiet ta' pittura, skultura u artiggjanat, Wirjiet tal-Milied, tal-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa u l-kult Marjan, kif ukoll lejliet letterarji u b'tifkira lill-Individwi li għamlu isem, drama, kunċerti u diskussjoniet b'temi varji.

Matul is-snin disghin tas-seklu li għadda, l-Għaqda rnexxielha taħdem b'suċċess xejn inqas minn tmien *videos* bil-karattri tradizzjonali ta' Wenzu u Rozi, il-praspar ta' Ġaħan, kif ukoll Dokumentarji dwar il-Ġimgħa Mqaddsa u l-festa ta' Santa Marija tal-Mosta. Iż-żewġ Dokumentarji kellhom ukoll il-verżjoni bl-Ingliż. Il-bejgħ u l-qliegħ kollu ta' dawn il-produzzjonijiet li jammonta għal eluf ta' Euros, mar għal skopijiet filantropici u għar-restawr tar-Rotunda tal-Mosta.

F'Awissu 1998, l-Għaqda inghatat bħala sede ir-Razzett tal-Markiż Mallia Tabone, binja li tmur lura sas-seklu sbatax, fuq ir-riħ ta' Wied il-Għasel fil-Mosta. Ir-Razzett jintuża mill-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti għall-attivitajiet kulturali bi skop filantropiku, u dan bil-koperazzjoni tal-Kap u l-Kunsill ta' l-Iskola Sekondarja tal-Bniet fi ħdan il-Kulleġġ Maria Regina, biswit l-istess Razzett. Dan ir-Razzett

Kienu mhux ftit daww l-istituzzjonijiet impenjati f'risq min hu fil-bżonn li gawdew minn għajjnuna finanzjarja li qassmet l-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti. Fost dawn insemmu l-Malta Community Chest Fund, il-Fond għall-Karita' tal-Parroċċa tal-Mosta, id-Dar tal-Providenza, Caritas (Malta), Millennium Chapel, il-Hospice Movement, Il-Multiple Sclerosis Society of Malta, Malta Guide Dog Association, Dar Ġesú Nazzarenu, ALS Malta, u oħrajn.

Fis-sena 2001, l-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti giet mogħtija l-Onorifiċenza “Ġieħ il-Mosta” mill-Kunsill Lokali tal-Mosta. Fl-2009, Talent Mosti gie rikonoxxut bħala Għaqda Mhux Governattiva (NGO) bin-numru tal-identifikazzjoni Vo/0226. Hawnhekk gie speċifikat bil-miktub, li l-għan ewlieni ta’ din l-assoċjazzjoni hu favur il-progress lejn il-kultura, l-arti u l-patrimonju Nazzjonali, u dan kollu b’għan Filantropiku.

F’temp ta’ ftit snin, ir-Razzett tal-Markiz sar Ċentru Nazzjonali ta’ Kultura. Għax għalkemm l-għeruq tal-Għaqda kienu u għadhom Mostin, bl-użu tar-Razzett tal-Markiz fethet beraħ il-bibien għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin u b’mod modest firxet ħidmietha ‘l barra minn xtutna. B’hekk, illum fi hdan ir-Razzett, jiltaqgħu u jithalltu persuni ta’ kejl differenti fl-intellet u sengħa, imma li koll għandhom kontribut validu x’jikkontribwixxu b’risq l-arti, il-kultura u solidarjetá umana.

L-għan originali filantropiku jibqa’ janima lill-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti, biex taħdem u tirsisti halli tilqa’ kull aspekk ta’ kultura minn kull qasam tal-ħajja. Għalhekk meta żżuru Malta, sibu ħin biex taslu sar-Razzett tal-Markiz il-Mosta, u tifmhu aħjar il-ħidma ta’ Talent Mosti... Narawkom...

Tistgħu tikkuntattjawna fuq:

Email: talentmosti1983@gmail.com

Facebook: Razzett tal-Markiz

Website: talentmosti.com

Telephone number: 00356 21420632 wara s-sitta ta’ filgħaxija

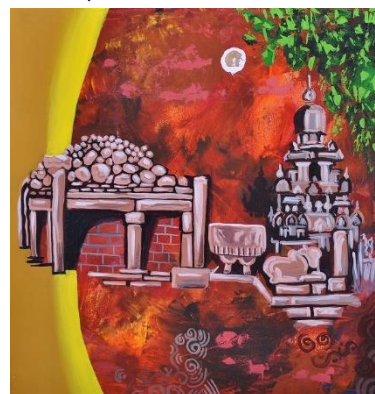
Mobile no: 00356 79268221

Indirzz: Razzett tal-Markiz Mallia Tabone, 27, Triq Wied il-Għasel, Mosta, MST2142, Malta.



L-Għaqda Filantropika Talent Mosti

bi pjaċir tippresenta
Wirja Artistika minn
Fr. A. Sahaya Belix
Mit-13 sas-26 ta’ Jannar 2019
Fir-Razzett tal-Markiz Mallia Tabone
fi Triq Wied il-Għasel, il-Mosta



Ħinijiet tal-ftuħ: Mit-Tnejn -Sibt: mis-6pm sat-8pm

Ħdud: mill-10am sa nofsinhar u mis-6pm sat-8pm

Fr. A. Sahaya Belix huwa Saċerdot Kattoliku mill-Indja. Tista’ tgħid li l-arti wieldet fih sa minn eta żgħira. Huwa studja l-Arti u rċieva d-Diploma fit-Terapija tal-Arti. Il-motto tiegħu hu “Qalbu tiddi f’qalbi”. L-arti u l-ispieritwalità ffurmawh fis-saċerdozju tiegħu. Il-Missjoni ta’ Fr Belix hi li joħloq soċjeta’ sana permezz tal-arti.

About Fr.A.Sahaya Belix

Rev.Fr.A.Sahaya Belix is an Indian catholic priest and self taught artist. His priestly motto is “His heart to shine in my art.” He has done his diploma in expressive Art Therapy.

Fr.A.Sahaya Belix is doing art from his childhood onwards. The talents of art and spirituality were developed together in his priestly formation. The experience inspired him to formulate “Neuro aesthetic spirituality” combined with psychology, spirituality and art. This new method is an outcome of his personal experiment and experience. His vision is to create a healthy society through arts and crafts.



Good news for Comino campers

Posted On January 2, 2019 - Updated 2 January, 2019 8:31pm

Report: Adrian Spiteri

While plans are being drawn up for the enhanced management of environmental aspects in Comino,

including the surrounding waters, to provide greater and more appropriate environmental measures, the authorities is also keeping in mind to enable camping in a restricted zone that has been identified in the vicinity of the Blue Lagoon.

The ray of hope for campers was shed by Alexei Zammit, from the Aġenzija Ambjent Malta, when on the programme 'Dissett' he said it is planned to provide a camping zone in a site that has been identified by the management and approved by ERA.

The zone selected covers 10,000 square metres and is the zone known as being near "Tal-Ful". This is above the Blue Lagoon and will enable camping when all the preparations have been completed.

This development has taken place while in recent days the Authority issued an order that no camping is permitted in other Comino zones and notices have been affixed that camping in the vicinity of the Santa Marija Bay is permitted.

Alexei Zammit explained that over this month this site is to be restored to its original state after a thorough clean-up and other measures to protect its natural environment.

He said this means the rehabilitation of the bay includes its sand dunes, the marsh area and the foot paths in the area.

The great environmental interest in Comino is that the whole island is a Natura 2000 site and is considered to be a natural reserve. The sea around Comino is also a maritime protected zone.

In the same 'Dissett', programme Professor Alan Deidun maintained that the next step should be a management plan for the seas around Comino that has to be approved by the Cabinet.

He said that ERA is drawing up management plans to highlight the way ahead and help manage these areas to achieve the desired aims. Consultations are currently taking place with stakeholders involving fishermen, maritime transport, the armed forces and all those involved in the zone.

'Dissett' will be transmitted after the News programme and will treat various related to Comino including the future of its residents.



BITTER ORANGES OF GOZO

Last week I tried something new, like many Gozitans I made use of the Seville bitter oranges which are grown locally to make marmelade, something I had never been interested before. But the scent and colour of the fresh bright orange fruit on the trees locally made me want to try my hand at making marmelade, but besides, one of my new Gozitan friends, Tessie, brought us three kilos of organically grown oranges fresh from the tree, and

she also gave me a recipe to make this delicious bitter jam.

So, full of enthusiasm last Monday I gathered the stuff that I needed to start. Fine brown sugar, weighing scales (which the flat does not have but Tessie brought, lemons, also brought by my friend from her own tree. The pictures will tell of how I faced some challenges due to the fact that the flat did not have the right pot for cooking marmelade, but I managed with a pan that has a thick bottom. I ended up with so many pots and we shared most of them out to friends and neighbours because we ourselves only eat a little of marmelade.

I tasted it and it was very much to my liking, bitter, tangy, with a sweet after taste, but everything in balance. Yes the recipe was good and simple too. It was interesting to see the fruit preserved in this



way, and to see the process of getting it from the tree into the jars. Taking part in a little bit of tradition here which I surely enjoyed. This type of orange has very many pips in it, these pips are used, cooked for a little while and the juice strained and used in the marmalade as pectin.

Above, here I had to weigh all the sugar into lots of 500gr and use the pan six times filled with 6 lots of fruit all measured out. The large pot I had being very thin almost burned immediately so I transferred it this way, it took a long time, most of the day to do it this way but it worked and all the marmelade succeeded I am happy to say. Apart from a lovely taste, I like this marmalade for its bright colour, only fruit and sugar used,

nothing else. mouth-watering.

Timpana recipe, make your own traditional Maltese baked macaroni in a pastry case

Timpana is the **ultimate pasta pie!** Macaroni with bolognaise style sauce are baked in a **pastry case** in either a deep dish or baking tray until its golden brown. You can find this dish in the **typical pastizzerias** for a really cheap price!

Ingredients to make your own Timpana:

- 500g puff pastry (frozen sheets)
- 500g dried macaroni or penne
- 300g beef mince
- 300g pork mince
- 300g chicken livers, diced (optional)
- 300g bacon, finely diced
- 500g onions, finely diced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 150g parmesan cheese, grated
- 150g tasty cheese, grated
- 7 eggs, beaten
- 200g tomato paste
- 200g tomato purée
- 500ml chicken or beef stock
- 150g butter
- Salt and pepper

For glaze

- 100ml milk
- 1 egg, extra

Preheat oven to 180°C.



Fry onions and garlic in olive oil for 5 minutes, then add bacon and pork mince, stirring well to separate.

Add beef mince and continue stirring, cooking for another 10 minutes. If you want to try the traditional recipe, add chicken livers and cook for another 5 minutes. Now, pour the stock, mix well and bring to boil. Simmer for 20 minutes. Add tomato paste and tomato purée.

While the sauce is cooking, **cook pasta** in a large pot of boiling salted water until just undercooked, a bit before al dente, to give you an idea. Drain and mix with sauce, adding parmesan and tasty cheese. Stir in beaten eggs to give consistency to the mixture.

Line a greased baking dish with the pastry, also on the sides. Fill it with the pasta dressed up with the bolognaise sauce and cover the top with another layer of pastry which has been pricked all over with a knife to let steam



National, Native and Popular Flowers of Malta

Found only in Malta, the Maltese Centaury (*Paleocyanus crasifolius*) was adopted as the national flower of Malta in the early 1970s.



The flower is a capitulate head composed of 5-6 rows of involucral bracts and a top of numerous tubular florets having a characteristic purple colour. Having about 30-40mm long heads and about 35-50mm across, the slightly fragrant smell of the flower somehow resembles that of tea.

Other Native and popular flowers of Malta

The position of the Maltese Islands in the

BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS OF MALTA

centre of the Mediterranean gives a special significance to their flora and the Maltese flora partakes of the floras of all the other parts of the Mediterranean, thus one finds species with eastern, western and North African affinities. The Maltese vascular flora comprises about **1,000** species of which some 800 are indigenous, the rest being naturalised aliens.

Some of the Popular flowers native to Malta, grown here are, Zaghfran tal Blat Sand Crocus, Succulent, Buzbiez Fennel, Saghtar, *Cynara cardunculus*, Fidloqqom, L-ingliza Sewda, Blue Stonecrop, Crimson pea, Lellux (Crown Daisy), Barbary nut iris, Erika, Red Campion and Asiatic lily.

Roses, Cut flowers Tulips, Gerberas, Orchids, Carnations and **Sunflowers** are very popular among the people of this country and most commonly, these flowers are used on festivals and occasions like Birthdays,

Pope Francis Jumps into Diplomatic Spat Between Malta And Italy Over Stranded Asylum Seekers

"I make a heartfelt appeal to European leaders to show concrete solidarity for these people"



Tim Diacono

Stock photo: Pope Francis welcomes a group of Syrian refugees in Rome (Photo: Reuters)

Pope Francis has urged EU leaders to grant a safe port to 49 asylum seekers currently stranded on NGO-run vessels in Maltese waters.

"I make a heartfelt appeal to European leaders to show concrete solidarity for these people, who are seeking a safe port where they can disembark," the Pope said in a speech at St Peter's Square to mark the feast of the Epiphany.

The 49 asylum seekers are currently stranded in Maltese waters on two NGO-run vessels, the Sea-Watch 3 and the Sea-Eye. No EU country has accepted these migrants but Malta allowed them to enter its waters earlier this week due to bad weather.

However, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat insisted today that Malta will not let take the migrants in, warning that such an act could set a precedent and risk turning the island into a centre for asylum seekers rescued by NGO-run vessels.

"We need to strike a balance between human kindness and national security and we will ask the EU if accepting these people will set a precedent," he said. "It's a point of principle for us. It would have been very easy to play the Christmas saint, but then January, February and the summer months would have come along and we would have had to be coherent. We are currently in talks with the EU and other countries and are asking them what will happen if this situation repeats itself."

The situation has led to diplomatic tension between Italy and Malta, with Italy's deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio accusing Malta of refusing to dock the ships despite them being in Maltese waters. The Maltese government retorted that the migrants had been rescued in an area that was outside Malta's search and rescue region and that the ships only sought refuge in Maltese territorial waters after Italy denied them passage.

"There are those who have closed their ports and are flexing their muscles, while little Malta didn't kick up a fuss when it rescued 250 people recently," Muscat said, in a clear dig at the Italian government. "We will not politically cave in to people who act the bully and who are doing as they please. If that happens, then their supporters will cheer them on while tiny Malta, which follows the law and saves people's lives, ends up a victim and appears weak."



End of an era: Marsalforn's last full-time fisherman dies

Marsalforn's last full-time fisherman, Leli Borg, known as ic-Cmajra, has died yesterday. He pictured here doing what he loved most, in this photo taken by his lifelong friend, photographer Ted Attard.

Ghaddew il-btajjel.....harsa 'l quddiem! Kav. Joe M Attard - Gozo



Il-btajjel tal-Milied għaddew u issa t-tfal ta' l-iskola qed jerggħu lura lejn il-bankijiet tal-klassi. L-istess jagħmlu dawk tas-6th form, tal-Junior College, ta' l-MCAST, u dawk ta' l-Universita'. Nahseb li anke l-haddiema ta' l-id u tal-pinna wkoll hađu xi vaganza u issa jinsabu lura fuq il-postijiet tax-xogħol mnejn iridu jaqilgħu l-hobża ta' kuljum.

Sallum it-tizjin kollu reġa' ddahhal fil-kaxxi u sab postu merfugħ fuq xi raf sa ma jerga' jekk Alla jrid, ifegġ mal-wasla ta' Diċembru jew tmiem Novembru. Jiena ma nħobbx inżarma kollox qabel ma tgħaddi l-festa tal-Magħmudija tal-Mulej u bħali żgur li għad fadal hafna. Il-Preseppi wkoll qed jiżżarmaw għad li xi ftit minnhom jibqgħu s-sena kollha bħal dak ta' Bastjan fiż-Żebbuġ u tas-Sur Frankie Mizzi fil-bidu tal-Fontana, li f'dal-każ, mhux biss ma jiżżarmaw, anzi għandek dejjem taralu xi zieda jew bidla kull meta jfettilek tmur thabbat fuq bieb il-koppja Mizzi. Jekk tixirfu saż-Żebbuġ nahseb li David Xuereb ukoll ma jgħagġilx iżarma l-għadd ta' preseppi li jibni kull sena.

Intant irrid ngħid Prosit lil dawk kollha li bnew xi preseppu u hallew biebhom miftuħ biex stajna mmorru narawh. Fiż-Żebbuġ bħal dejjem David Xuereb bena preseppu sabiħ li jdum xi ftit armat flimkien ma' xi tnejn oħra mxerrda mas-sotterran li għandu fuq ir-riħ ta' Marsalforn. Fin-Nadur, fil-Qasam tas-subien (Museum), rajt preseppu wkoll sabiħ u mdaqqas apparti l-fatt li dawn is-soċji magħrufin għat-tizjin li jagħmlu f'din it-tieni dar tagħhom. Intihom ukoll il-Prosit għal kunċert tassew sabiħ li tawna matul il-jiem li għaddew ffil-Knisja parrokkjali. Anton Sillato fir-Rabat ukoll żamm l-appuntament tiegħu apparti dak li bena fil-Knisja tal-Patrijiet Frangiskani li tant kienet imzejna għal dawn il-jiem. Dumink mix-Xagħra imma miżżewweg Victoria wkoll bena preseppu mekkaniku għall-aħhar biswit il-Knisja tal-Patrijiet. F'Għajnsielem għogobni ferm il-Preseppu ta' Herman, kif ukoll tal-Patrijiet ta' Giezu waqt li fi triq il-Kappuċċini Victoria żort iehor interessanti, xogħol l-aħwa Manwel u Ganni Grech. "Betlem f'Għajnsielem" reġa' għibed il-folol; hawnhekk rajt iehor sabiħ tal-artist Ghawdx Pawlu Stellini.

Ir-raħal tax-Xagħra wkoll jipprovdi l-okkażjoni biex toħroġ iżżur xi preseppi, fosthom wiehed haj li jagħmlu tan-Nazzarenu fejn rajt iehor taht l-istess knisja. Fil-parroċċa tal-Bambina bqajt imbellah bil-preseppi sbieħ u artistiċi li rajt armati fuq diversi altari laterali u fil-Museum tas-subien ta' kull sena jintrama l-Preseppu fil-waqt li mhux wisq bogħod kif ukoll dawk ta' Aaron u Ray Bonello. Preseppu helu rajt fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tax-Xewkija kif ukoll iehor haj taht ir-Rotunda— tassew kien fihom x'tara! Minhabba nuqqas ta' spazju mhux possibbli nikkummenta fuq il-preseppi kollha li dort iżda nassikurakom li kollha kienu sbieħ u għal qalbi. Mort ukoll għal Pageant ta' San Lawrenz qrib il-Milied. Qabel il-Pageant fir-raħal tal-Levita martri, bqajt fil-Belt Victoria u hassejtni għal darba oħra nsir tfal meta mxejt mat-tfal tal-Museum fil-purċissjoni bil-Bambin mat-toroq ta' beltina.

Dan kollu ktibtu biex iservi ta' gwida għal dawk kollha li mal-wasla ta' Diċembru jagħmlu l-hsieb li jduru l-Preseppi bħalma nħobb nagħmel jien biex b'hekk inżommu hajja l-kultura u l-ghożża tal-preseppu, il-qofol ta' kull Milied. Id-Dipartiment tal-Kultura jagħti xi ftit ta' l-għajnuna lil dawk li jithajru jibnu l-preseppu u jifthuh għal wiri u anke johroġ lista tagħhom. Numru sabiħ u nkoragġanti! Ma naqsux xi serati tal-Milied bħal kor Chorus Urbanus tal-belt Victoria u xi korijiet mix-Xagħra u kor iehor li smajtu jkanta fil-Knisja Arċipretali taż-Żebbuġ fejn il-ksieħ jinħass sewwa.

Issa rridu nħarsu 'l quddiem u naraw x'hemm għalina fil-futur. Matul Jannar għandna l-festa fix-Xagħra ta' Sant Anton Abbati kif ukoll tigi wara, l-festa ta' San Frangisk de Sales Isqof ta' Ginevra u Patrun tal-Gurnalisti u Mons Isqof Mario Grech ma jonqosx li jiltaqa' magħhom u jqaddsilhom. Lejn l-aħhar ta' Frar jaslu wkoll il-festi tradizzjonali tal-Karnival. Il-festa ta' San Gwann Bosco tilhaq il-qofol tagħha fl-ewwel Hadd ta' Frar bil-purċissjoni u l-kunċert mill-Gozo Youth Wind Band & Orchestra taht id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Joseph Grech.

Għal-lum daqshekk! Insellmilkom u nixteqilkom kull saħħa u ġid. Għamiltu xi proponiment għas-sena 2019?



Buses carried 53.4 million passengers in 2018

Malta Public Transport said it set a new record in public transport, carrying close to 55 million individuals in buses in 2018, a significant increase from the previous year

by **David Hudson**



A new record has been set in public transport, with Malta Public Transport (MPT) saying in a press release that 53.4 million passengers were transported by public buses in 2018.

This represents an increase of 11.3% over 2017 when the company carried 48 million passengers in a single year.

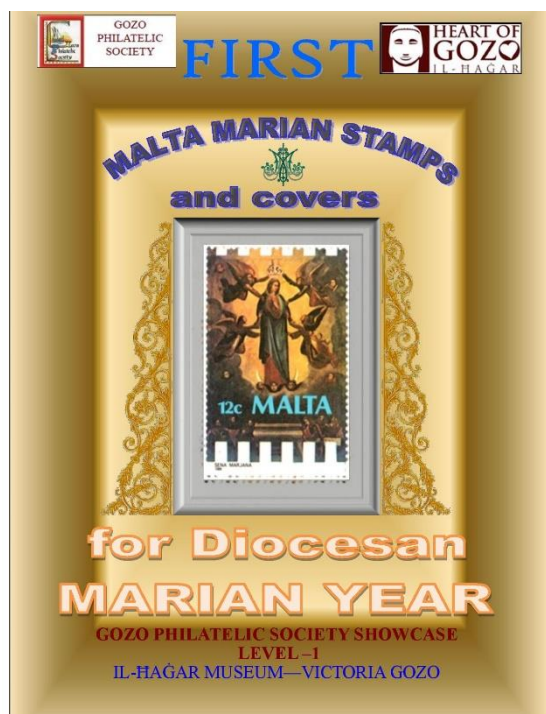
"We are very proud to be carrying 14 million people more than we carried in our first year of operation," said Konrad Pulé, MPT's General Manager, adding that this constant growth is a clear sign that the confidence in public transport is increasing.

The most popular routes, the ones carrying the most passengers, were those serving Sliema, St Julian's, Bugibba and Cirkewwa, with route 13 carrying over 3 millions a year on its own.

Other routes that had increased in popularity over the year were those serving Mater Dei and university bus stops, which had seen passenger numbers increase by 13%.

"Our thanks goes to all our passengers, who are choosing to travel by bus instead of using a car," Pulé said.

The busiest day in 2018 in terms of passengers was 8 August, with over 186,000 passengers using the bus on this day alone. This was another record, given that the highest amount of passengers that used the bus service in any day in 2017 was 164,000. MPT also thanked its employees. "These results encourage us to continue working hard to improve our bus service further in order to attract more and more people to use the bus, with the aim of reducing the number of cars on our roads."



MALTA MARIAN STAMPS @ IL-HAĠAR

The Gozo Philatelic Society has set up a new exhibit in their showcase on level -1 at Il-Haġar (Pjazza San Ġorġ - Victoria) in parallel with the special Marian Diocesan Year exhibition *Sub Tuum Praesidium*.

Full sheets of the first Marian stamps issued by Malta, together with first day covers and other items, should be of interest for anyone.

Opening hours remain 9am-5pm seven days a week – and there is no entrance fee.

BOLLI MARJANI FIL-HAĠAR

Il-Gozo Philatelic Society irranġat wirja ġdida fil-vetrina li għandha fil-livell -1 tal-HAĠAR (Pjazza San Ġorġ - Victoria) – kollegata ma' *Sub Tuum Praesidium*, il-wirja speċjali għas-Sena Marjana Djoċesana.

Folji sħaħ tal-ewwel bolli Marjani maħruġa hawn Malta,

flimkien ma' *first day covers* u oġġetti oħra, għandhom jiġbdu l-interess ta' kulhadd.

Il-ħinijiet tal-ftuħ jibqgħu 9am-5pm sebat ijiem fil-ġimgħa – u m'hemmx ħlas tad-dħul.

Antoine Vassallo

The Jewish Community in Malta



Jewish roots in Malta date back to the 4th and 5th Century during the Roman period as evidenced by several Jewish Catacombs with drawings depicting the Jewish Menorah (candelabra) that can be found at the St. Paul's Catacomb site near Rabat.

St. Paul's Catacomb site near Rabat

The long Jewish history includes periods of enrichment as well as slavery, depending on who was ruling Malta at the time.

Points of special Jewish heritage interest on Malta include old landmarks and street signs. In the walled city of Mdina, where the Jews made up almost one third of the population, there is a "Jewish Silk Market" and a "Jews' Gate"; and in Valletta, Malta's capital and European Capital of Culture 2018 there is a sign "Jews Sally Port". Even the Island of Comino, almost uninhabited today but famous for the Blue Lagoon, has Jewish roots. Comino is where the well-known Jewish Mystic Avraham Abulafia lived from 1285 until his death in the 1290s. During this period, he

compiled his Sefer ha Ot "Book of the Sign" as well as his last, and perhaps his most intelligible, work, the meditation manual Imrei Shefer "Words of Beauty".

Jewish Silk Market



Jews from Turkey and other places who were captured by the Hospitaller knights that ruled the island from 1530 till 1798, and were unable to redeem them, established a new Jewish community in Malta. The island became open to unimpaired settlement of Jews after Napoleon conquered it and expelled the knights. In 1798. During the British rule on the island, which

began with the expulsion of the French in 1800, there began a limited immigration of Jews to Malta, but the community never numbered more than several dozen and there wasn't always a Rabbi. During WW2 the Jews of Malta were unaffected as the planned invasion of Malta never took place. Some German Jews even found refuge on the island during the thirties.



(Trij tal-Lhud – Jews Street) There are three Jewish cemeteries in Malta which can be visited through prior arrangements with the local Jewish Community leader. The stories gleaned from the tombstone inscriptions, are a rich narrative which includes Jewish soldiers who fought in WWI and were buried in Malta.

In 1979 the old synagogue of the community in the capital city, Valetta, was destroyed, and in 2000 a new synagogue was dedicated. Today there are about 200 Jews under the Presdient Mr. Avraham Ochayon together with his son Reuven.

In 2013 a Chabad House was established in Malta by Rabbi Chaim Shalom and Mrs. Chaya Mushka Segel. The Chabad Center of Malta runs a variety of activities for tourists and the local Jewish community including "L'Chaim", the only strictly kosher restaurant in all of Malta. The Chabad House along with local Jewish community work to strengthen Judaism and make it flourish.

The Synagogue:

In addition to the synagogue in the Chabad House there is a synagogue in a residential building in the city of Ta'Xbiex, which is within walking distance from the city of Sliema. The synagogue serves the Jewish community on the Sabbath and holidays. On the Sabbath there is a morning minyan (prayer service) at 10:00. **Address:** Florida Mansions #1 Enrico Mizzi Street Ta' Xbiex, Malta

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