

# Maltese eNewsletter



Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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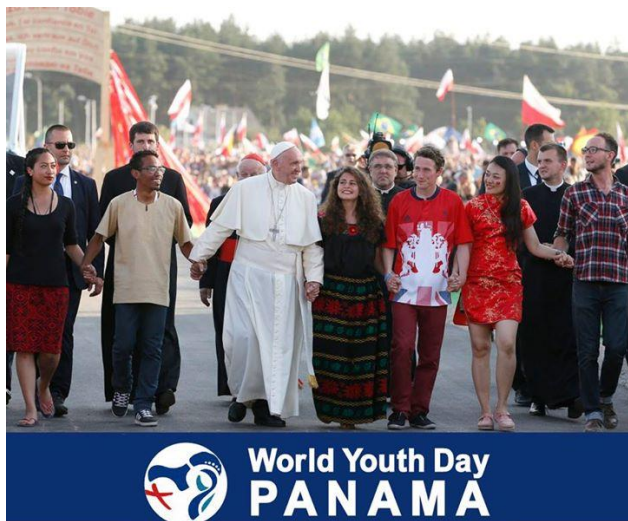
## Engaging Families With Technology



IL-QUCCIA

Aborigines  
celebrate  
Australia  
Day





## World Youth Day: Grand Hospitaller Greets Pope Francis in Panama

### Positive track record for the Order of Malta's 130 first-aid volunteers

On 27 January, Pope Francis took his leave of the 600,000 young people attending the concluding Mass in Campo San Juan Pablo for the 34th World Youth Day in Panama, encouraging them to live their life in the present and not to put off projects and dreams to tomorrow. Also present on the platform, besides the President of the Panamanian Republic, Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez and other heads of state, was the Order of Malta's Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La

Rochefoucauld-Montbel, who led a team of 130 volunteers from Italy, Germany and France. The pope also expressed his appreciation for the Order of Malta's medical assistance during the Panama gathering. The volunteers, all specialised in accident and emergency care, were present at all the main events, working in close cooperation with the Panamanian first-aid, civil defence and fire-fighting services and with the Vatican Gendarmerie Corps and Swiss Guards. The main pathologies treated were caused by high temperatures, such as dehydration and exhaustion, or twists and strains following falls. So once again in Panama the Order of Malta is assisting pilgrims, as it has in all past World Youth Days.



## A Diabetes Clinic Inaugurated in Egypt

**Mario Carotenuto, the Sovereign Order of Malta's ambassador to Egypt, has inaugurated a clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes in Shoubra (Cairo). The new facility can see some 2000 of the most needy and disadvantaged people in the Egyptian capital every month.**

The clinic's premises have been made available by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd thanks to a partnership agreement with the Order's embassy.

This project was also based on the humanitarian cooperation between the Order and the Republic of China (Taiwan), involving the acquisition of a colour ultrasound, indispensable for making a precise diagnosis on the damages caused by diabetes. This modern diagnostic tool is also equipped with an echocardiogram probe.

The clinic, named after Blessed Gerard, the Order's founder, offers our embassy a new and significant opportunity to develop its healthcare and social initiatives in Egypt.





## ORDER OF MALTA ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

English version also available online

The Order of Malta's 2019 Activity Report has been published, illustrating its core activities, as well its health and social care, diplomatic and religious missions in the 120 countries in which it operates. Published every two years in English (Italian, French, Spanish and German editions will soon be ready), the Activity Report – available in both paper and electronic format – covers the most significant moments and events in the Order's life and provides a comprehensive overview of its multiple initiatives.

The publication opens with a message from the Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre

del Tempio di Sanguinetto, and offers exclusive interviews with the Order's leadership, such as the Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller, as well as with those responsible for some of its most important activities, including the Syrian refugee programmes of Malteser International – the Order of Malta's international relief agency – and the projects for the Roma communities and for medical services in central America, to cite just a few examples. The publication, enriched with many pictures from all five continents, also features interviews with personalities external to the Order, such as Cardinal Peter Turkson – Prefect of the Holy See's Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development – on the challenge of integrating refugees and migrants, and Jamilah Mahmood – Under Secretary General for Partnerships at the IFRC – on promoting a policy of reception and respect for every individual.

Also listed are the conferences in which the Order has participated or organised, the main institutional meetings of recent years, the signature of cooperation agreements and the opening of diplomatic relations with other countries. A section testifies to the daily actions of thousands of members, volunteers and professionals in each country.

With over 120 pages packed with information, the Activity Report is confirmed as a useful instrument for discovering more about the Order's life and actions and for appreciating the Christian spirit that manifests itself in all corners of the world, from western metropolises to isolated communities in the poorest countries. The 2019 Activity Report in English is presently being distributed to the Order of Malta's bodies worldwide.

<https://www.orderofmalta.int/publications/activity-report-2019/>

## Order of Malta - BILATERAL AGREEMENT



### **The Order of Malta has bilateral relations with 108 states**

The diplomatic activities of the Sovereign Order of Malta are closely linked to its humanitarian mission: the presence of accredited diplomatic missions in more than 100 countries of the world supports the activities of the Order.

In the international political field, the Order of Malta is neutral, impartial and non-political. Because of these characteristics, it can act as a mediator whenever a State requests its intervention to help settle a dispute.

### **The Sovereign Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with 108 countries:**

#### **EUROPE:**

Albania | Austria | Belarus | Bosnia-Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Croatia | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Germany | Holy See | Hungary | Italy | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Malta | Moldova | Monaco | Montenegro | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Russian Federation\* | San Marino | Serbia | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Ukraine

*\* Relations with the Russian Federation are maintained through a diplomatic special mission.*

#### **THE AMERICAS:**

Antigua and Barbuda | Argentina | Bahamas, The | Belize | Bolivia | Brazil | Chile | Colombia | Costa Rica | Cuba | Dominican Republic | El Salvador | Grenada | Guatemala | Guyana | Haiti | Honduras | Nicaragua | Panama | Paraguay | Peru | Saint Lucia | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Suriname | Uruguay | Venezuela

#### **AFRICA:**

Angola | Benin | Burkina | Faso | Cameroon | Cape Verde | Central Africa | Chad | Comoros | Congo, Democratic Republic of the | Congo, Republic of the | Côte d'Ivoire | Egypt | Equatorial Guinea | Eritrea | Ethiopia | Gabon | Guinea | Guinea-Bissau | Kenya | Liberia | Madagascar | Mali | Mauritania | Mauritius | Morocco | Mozambique | Namibia | Niger | Sao Tome and Principe | Senegal | Seychelles | Sierra Leone | Somalia | Sudan | South Sudan | Togo

#### **ASIA:**

Afghanistan | Armenia | Cambodia | Georgia | Jordan | Kazakhstan | Lebanon | Philippines | Tajikistan | Thailand | Timor-Leste | Turkmenistan

#### **OCEANIA:**

Kiribati | Marshall Islands | Micronesia | Nauru

### **The Sovereign Order of Malta has official relations with:**

Belgium | France | Luxembourg | Switzerland | Canada

### **The Sovereign Order of Malta has relations at Ambassador level with:**

Palestine

#### **Supporting humanitarian action**

Multilateral relations with the United Nations, European Union and the principal international organisations allow the Sovereign Order of Malta to take its expertise from the field to the diplomatic table. Through its ambassadors and diplomatic representatives, the Order's views on issues at the core of its commitment – human rights, healthcare, food security – are represented on the international stage. The Sovereign Order of Malta contributes with its expertise to global consultations and to the definition of possible fields of cooperation in healthcare, social assistance and emergency relief.

### **The Sovereign Order of Malta has relations at Ambassador level**

#### **European Union**

### **The Sovereign Order of Malta has permanent observer missions to the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies:**

United Nations – New York

United Nations – Geneva

United Nations – Geneva



## THE ROYAL NAVY DOCKYARDS IN MALTA

**Pre-1800** The Knights of Malta established dockyard facilities within the Grand Harbour to maintain their fleet of galleys. These were spread between the cities of Senglea, Valletta and Vittoriosa.

**19th century** When Malta became a British protectorate in 1800, these facilities were inherited, and gradually consolidated, by the Royal Navy. With the loss of Menorca, Malta swiftly became the Navy's principal Mediterranean base.

The Royal Navy Dockyard was initially located around Dockyard Creek, and occupied several of the dockyard buildings formerly used by the Knights of Malta. By 1850 the facilities included storehouses, a ropery, a small steam factory, victualling facilities, houses for the officers of the Yard, and most notably a dry dock – the first to be provided for a Royal Dockyard outside Britain.<sup>[2]</sup> Begun in 1844, the dry dock was opened in 1847; ten years later it was extended to form a double dock (No. 1 and No. 2 dock).<sup>[1]</sup> Allegedly, marble blocks from the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, were used for the construction of these docks.



a bomb-damaged Dry Dock No 3 during World War II

In the second half of the century the steam factory with its machine shops and foundries was expanded. Very soon, though, it was clear that more space was required than the crowded wharves of Dockyard Creek afforded, to accommodate the increasing size of ships and the increasing size of the fleet based there. The decision was taken to expand into the adjacent French Creek, and between 1861 and 1909 a further five dry docks (three single plus one double dock) were constructed there, along with an assortment of specialized buildings to serve the mechanized Navy.

The armed trawler HMS *Coral* within

**20th century** It was an important supply base during the First World War and the Second World War. In January 1941 sixty German dive bombers made a massed attack on the dockyard in an attempt to destroy the damaged British aircraft carrier *Illustrious*, but she received only one bomb hit. Incessant German and Italian bombing raids targeted Malta through March, opposed by only a handful of British fighters. Then in April 1942 the Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard reported that due to German air attacks on Malta's naval base "practically no workshops were in action other than those underground; all docks were damaged; electric power, light and telephones were largely out of action."

The dockyard was handed over to Baileys, a civilian firm of ship repairers and marine engineers, in 1959. After Baileys were dispossessed by the Maltese Government the dockyard was closed as a naval base and the Royal Navy withdrew completely in 1979. It was then managed by a workers' council between 1987 and 1996 repairing civilian ships.

**21st century** In 2010, Malta Shipyards Ltd was placed into liquidation and its assets were given over to Palumbo Shipyards. In the course of its government ownership, the dockyard had accumulated €1bn in losses. In 2011, Palumbo acquired on a 30-year lease the neighbouring "superyacht" facility, which includes a drydock with a retractable roof.

**WE BUILD BRIDGES AMONG COMMUNITITIES  
NOT WALLS**





**BOMB DAMAGE FROM THE RENEWED BLITZ ON MALTA. MAY 1942, MALTA.**

**World War 2 - Malta most bombed country in the world**



## Turkey and the statue of Pope Pius V in Malta

The statue of Pope Pius V which caused diplomatic waves for the way the flag being trodden upon by the saint was mistakenly shown as the flag of modern Turkey.

The Dominican pope, St Pius V, is buried in the Sistine chapel in Santa Maria Maggiore; not to be confused with the Sistine chapel in the Vatican palace! This pope reformed and codified the Roman Missal, excommunicated Queen Elizabeth I and defeated the Turks at the Battle of Lepanto (thus saving Christian Europe). His body is on view in this chapel for the veneration of the faithful.

It is said that the pope now wears white because this pope refused to discard the white habit of the Order of Preachers

Pope Pius V, who led the Catholic Church between 1566 and 1572, ended up in the midst of a diplomatic incident some 440 years later due to a mistake in a flag on a statue in Vittoriosa.

When Pius V was elected Pope, the Catholic Church had just recovered from the upheavals of Protestantism and the Reformation, but was being faced by the military power of Islam and the Ottoman Empire. The Dominican monk battled on two fronts, on one hand among quarrelling Catholic rulers and protestant kings and on the other with Muslim warlords.

For Malta, Pius V is considered as the Pope who encouraged the Knights of St John, both morally and financially, to build the city of Valletta.

For all these reasons, Catholic iconography remembers him as the Pope who halted the march of the Ottoman Empire.

When, in 1999, the people of Vittoriosa commissioned Michael Camilleri Cauchi to make a statue of the saint, he was instructed to show Pius as a Dominican friar, wearing the papal tiara, trampling over the symbols of the Ottoman Empire. The artist represented these latter symbols as a broken canon and a flag of the Ottoman Empire.

And this is where the statue unwittingly entered the delicate realm of diplomacy. The Ottoman flag consisting of a white half moon on a red field, was mistakenly represented as a half moon and a star, turning it into the flag of modern Turkey.

Nobody realised the mistake until the statue was displayed in Vittoriosa for one day in August 2000. A Turkish tourist took photos of the statue that offended him so much.

A few days later, the secretary of the committee in charge of the outdoor festivities got an urgent letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting an explanation after pressure was brought to bear by the Turkish Embassy in Rome. After a thorough explanation of the facts, the white star was removed and the matter apparently settled.

But last year a picture of the statue with the Turkish flag appeared on an internet site, which stated that the Maltese were obstructing Turkey's integration within the EU, and the picture was proof enough of how the Maltese viewed modern Turkey!

Once again, diplomacy sprang into action and a former President of Malta was asked to intervene to clear the air after the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed its Maltese counterpart of the site.



## Prime Minister Joseph Muscat meets X Factor Malta winner Michela Pace



Photo - DOI - Reuben Piscopo

Posted On February 1, 2019 - Updated 1 February, 2019 1:30pm

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat welcomed at Castille the X Factor winner and Malta's representative to the Eurovision 2019 contest in Tel Aviv, Michela Pace.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Owen Bonnici.

The Prime Minister also welcomed Michela Pace's parents

## Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas with Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca during her visit to Ramallah



Malta's diplomatic relations with Palestine go back for almost four decades, and throughout all those years, we have always supported the Palestinians' right of self-determination.

The meetings held between myself and His Excellency, الرئيس محمود عباس - President Mahmoud Abbas, and our delegations, have provided another platform to develop these relations.

During our meeting, we discussed various sectors of mutual interest, which include the political situation, tourism, culture, education, and other forms of cooperation, amongst others.

From our discussions, it is clear that there is a long-standing commitment, to continue to explore new opportunities for cooperation between our nations.

Her Excellency also Visited [Pharmacare PLC](#) in Betunia, Ramallah. Pharmacare is a Palestinian pharmaceutical company, which manufactures human and veterinary drugs, distributing its products locally and Globally. Thanks to a sister company based in Malta, Pharmacare PLC is an example of just how beneficial such business collaborations can be for the Maltese and Palestinians.

Malta looks forward to more collaboration with Palestinian businesses, to further enhance the economic relations between Malta and Palestine, whilst also creating opportunities for stronger person-to-person connections.





## St George's FC – the pride of Cospicua



St George's FC, season 1958-59 Division Two championship winners.

It is always sad to see a great club down on its knees, although in football this happens regularly.

Traditions count for nothing in this game and when a big club hit a bad patch, then everything seems to go wrong. An example of this is St George's.

Once the pride of Cospicua and Maltese football, the Saints began a downward slide in the mid-1950s from which they found it more and more difficult to recover and return to their former glory.

Two other examples, although not as obvious, are Floriana FC and Hamrun Spartans. These two great clubs have, for many years, been playing second fiddle to teams with little or no tradition in the annals of our game.

Cospicua was the breeding ground for some of the greatest players in our league but, since the war, the club somehow never managed to hold on to their talented players long enough to make an impact on the game.

One league championship and two cup victories are all St George's have to show for what they have done for Maltese football.

The period 1958-1963 can serve as an example of St George's inconsistency and, perhaps, lack of ambition to really make it to the top. I remember the team of that era quite well and would not hesitate to name it as the best St George's team of the post-war period.

In 1958-59, the Saints walked away with the second division, playing the kind of football rarely seen at the stadium and a look at a typical line-up of that team showed a crop of players who were the envy of all other clubs.

Players like Ellul, Frendo, Mizzi, Scerri, Schreiner, Mifsud, Ciantar, Scicluna, Cuschieri and Stivala were all first-class performers but the stars of that fine team were Freddie Delia, Eddie Mizzi and Peppi Delceppo.

Back in the top league in 1959-60, St George's went through a very good season, finishing in a healthy fourth place in the final table. The highlight of their season, however, came in the Christmas Tourney against crack team ASK Grazer. Playing with their traditional zest and enthusiasm, they beat the Austrians 1-0. The vital goal came from an Eddie Mizzi penalty.

The next season the Saints kept up their good form, finishing fifth in a season in which the Blues were never in relegation trouble. It seemed for a while that the good old days of the Cospicua club had returned.

They certainly had the credentials but the following year, the Saints failed once again to sustain their progress.

In fact, season 1961-62 was a poor one for Cospicua. They only managed seven points from a possible 28 and only avoided the drop because that year only one team was relegated.

What can one say? The players were there and they certainly had the potential to go places.

However, the old problems cropped up. Delia was transferred to Hibernians with whom he won two championship medals and Mizzi left for Sliema Wanderers.

One by one the other players abandoned ship and the year that followed the Saints lost their top-division status.

The club entered a rut and the same old record would be replayed over and over again... the team would win promotion only to be relegated again after a short stay in the top division.

By the end of the 1960s all the players of that fine team of 1958-1963 were gone except for Delceppo. He remained loyal to the club, filling any position in which he was needed.

**Belated thank you for the Maltese eNewsletter. I was very interested in the thought of a Maltese nominee as President of USA. Wouldn't that be news! I also enjoyed the article on the rationing during the WW11. 1942 was my birth year so it gave me a picture of what my mother coped with in that time. No wonder she feed me an egg a day in my early school years. Trying to make up for lost nourishment no doubt. I hope that you are keeping well. Al the best for 2019. Agnes Farrugia**



Photo: DGI - Clifton Fenech

## COTTONERA SPORTS COMPLEX

<https://www.sportmalta.org.mt/>

**OUR MISSION** - “Moving a nation through the promotion and development of sport for a healthy, inclusive and successful Malta.”

**OUR VALUES** “Integrity, Transparency, Accountability.”

SportMalta is determined to make a difference.

The unyielding principles guiding the SportMalta Board are Integrity, Transparency and Accountability.

Irrelevant of any changes in the environment within which SportMalta operates, SportMalta will remain loyal to these values.

- Integrity in the way we operate and function.
- Transparency and openness in everything we do.
- Accountability for all our actions and decisions.

**SPORTS ACT** - The Sports Act (Act XXVI of 2002) came in force on the 27th of January 2003 and defined the role of the then, Malta Sports Council (KMS), a governmental organisation, and the Malta Olympic Committee (MOC), a non-governmental organisation. The MOC’s statute is reproduced in a schedule to the Act. The main objective of the MOC is to ensure that preparations by prospective participants are of a standard for the major competitions in which Malta takes part, such as Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Mediterranean Games, Games of Small States of Europe, and other International games. All sports organisations should be registered in the bona fide sports persons register kept by SportMalta. Associations should also be registered with MOC if they practice an Olympic Sport.

*Through the Sports Act, the then KMS, later on rebranded and reformed as SportMalta, became the supreme authority of Sport, thereby becoming government’s sports programmes (service) provider on the one part and the sports regulator (in relation to sports organisations) on the other. Physical education and sport in schools remained part of the Directorate for Educational Services’ (service provider) remit and the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education within the Ministry for Education and Employment, as the regulator.*

*The Sports Act, amongst other things, establishes the role of SportMalta in:*

- a) the provision of sports programmes for all,
- b) the registering of sports organisations,
- c) the aiding in transferring the management of sports designated premises or sites to sports organisations for the establishment of their operating facilities and
- d) the provision of assistance to sports organisations – financial or otherwise and other sports services and regulation matters.

**FACILITIES** *Situated in Cospicua, the Cottonera Sports Complex is the main sports complex in the south of Malta and largest indoor sports facility in Malta. The complex design is innovative and unique to Malta and its roof covers one of the largest spans.*

This facility has two multi-purpose halls with 3 satellite areas.

**Main Hall.** The main Hall has a rubber surface and can fit 3 Volleyball Courts, 6 Badminton Courts and 1 Futsal International Court. The hall has a capacity of 1,200 spectators and has a generously sized press area.

**MULTIPURPOSE HALL** The multipurpose hall which can accommodate over 300 spectators has a concrete floor. The Cottonera Complex also has a number of meeting areas which are regularly utilised by sports organisations for committee meetings, annual general meetings etc.

As its name implies it is utilised for an assortment of activities from children’s P.E. classes and other events. The Complex is also used as a venue for activities of the Malta Volleyball Association, the Badminton Association, Malta Weighlifting Association, the Malta Traditional Karate Federation and the Malta Netball Association. In addition these facilities are also used exclusively for the a number of



SportMalta. The complex may be used by international sport users for training camps. Overseas sports associations and non-sporting events also take place in the complex.

## 1930 AN ATTEMPT OF ASSASSINATION ON LORD STRICKLAND



Lord Strickland (centre) and members of his government, including Sir Augustus Bartolo (first from left) at an official function. (Reproduced from Strickland House, Book One: 1921-1935, by Victor Aquilina, published by Allied Publications, 2010).

Legal procurator Bertu Mizzi. Right: Police Sergeant Duminku Depares, who, together with PC G. Caruana and PC G. Vella, apprehended and disarmed would-be assassin Ġanni Miller.

Inspector Carol Saliba. Right: Lord Strickland was prime minister of Malta from 1927 to 1930.

Il Berka's report on the assassination attempt. Right: The Auberge d'Auvergne in Kingsway, Valletta, which housed the law courts between 1853 and 1941.

During the 1930 general election campaign, Malta's Prime Minister, Lord Strickland, was at loggerheads with the ecclesiastical authorities. On May 1 the Archbishop of Malta, Dom Maurus Caruana, and the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Michael Gonzi, issued a joint pastoral letter declaring that it would be a mortal sin to vote for Strickland and his candidates, and for those who support him or his party. On April 17 the Governor, General Sir John Du Cane, had dissolved the Legislative Assembly.

While Strickland was walking along the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired. The shots had gone astray. He took the matter calmly and went inside to read his morning paper- Eddie Attard

On Friday, May 23, Lord Strickland went to the Auberge d'Auvergne in Kingsway, Valletta, which then housed the law courts, to attend a sitting of the Court of Appeal, which was hearing a case about the electoral law. While Strickland was walking along one of the corridors of the law courts, three shots were fired, allegedly at Strickland. The shots had gone astray. The bullets hit a wall and the ceiling and had remained lodged there. Strickland took the matter calmly and went inside the courtroom to read his morning paper.

Police Sergeant Duminku Depares and Constables Giuliano Caruana and George Vella, who were near Lord Strickland, intervened, and the gunman, 43-year-old Ġanni Miller, was apprehended and disarmed.

The news of the assassination attempt caused an enormous commotion and quickly spread throughout Valletta. In a matter of minutes a crowd rushed to the law courts and when it was learned that Strickland was unhurt a section of the crowd began shouting "Long live Strickland and down with Mizzi", referring to Nerik Mizzi, the co-leader of the Nationalist Party and Strickland's political opponent.

However, when Dr Mizzi heard what had happened he sent Strickland a message of sympathy, strongly condemning the attempt. As a gesture of goodwill, Strickland, accompanied by his daughter Mabel, visited the Nationalist Party printing press in South Street to thank Dr Mizzi personally.

Strickland received many messages of support, foremost among them those from King George V and Archbishop Caruana and Bishop Gonzi.

Ironically, about three years earlier, Miller, who at that time was serving a 15-year prison sentence for inciting soldiers to lay down their arms during the 1919 riots, had petitioned the Governor for an amnesty. The prison sentence was reduced, and when Strickland came to power in 1927 Miller was released from prison.

Meanwhile, some weeks prior to the assassination attempt, Miller was accused of threatening Dr John Bugeja and Tancred Borg of the Constitutional Party.

These events led the court to appoint Professor Edgar Ferro and two other doctors to draw up a report about Miller's mental health; the court experts reported that Miller was of sound mind.

When on May 27, 1930, Magistrate E. Bartoli started hearing evidence about the assassination attempt, the prosecution, led by Superintendent Alfred Borg, who had been with Strickland at the time of the shooting, and legal procurator Augusto German requested the court to continue hearing the evidence behind closed doors on the grounds that the attempt was part of a conspiracy.

Legal procurator Bertu Mizzi objected, but the court upheld the prosecution's request. Dr Mizzi was assisting defence counsel Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, popularly known as Il-Gross, who was not present in court when the magistrate gave his ruling.

Soon after Miller's attempt on Lord Strickland, it was alleged that Police Inspector Carol Saliba had produced a paid informant, Toni Bugeja, from Marsaxlokk, to make a sworn statement to the effect that some time before the assassination attempt, he (Bugeja) had been encouraged by Dr Mifsud Bonnici to try to kill Lord Strickland.

The affidavit was sworn on June 17, 1930, but Inspector Saliba denied the allegation that he had in any way incited Bugeja. Dr Mifsud Bonnici also denied the allegation in his regard.

Miller's trial by jury opened on November 18, 1930 and Giuseppe Mifsud, a witness for the prosecution, testified that the accused used to grumble against Strickland because he had lost his licence as a lotto receiver during Strickland's administration. Another witness testified that the accused was promised a job at the Central Hospital and blamed Strickland when he did not get it.

Moreover, Borg testified that some hours before the assassination attempt Miller had told him that Strickland's life was in danger. It also transpired that Miller had purchased the gun and 25 rounds of ammunition one or two days before the assassination attempt.

The defence argued that the accused had not aimed at Strickland and that the experts appointed by the court had confirmed that the gun was pointed upwards when it was fired.

By eight votes to one the jurors found Miller guilty of attempted homicide; he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

A few days after the assassination attempt, the May 28 edition of Il Progress, the organ of the Constitutional Party, reported that five months before the attempt on Strickland's life, some had started conspiring against Strickland after a certain individual, referred to as Mr X, had returned to Malta from Egypt.

Il Progress alleged that Mr X had met a person who ran a grocery shop in St Ursula Street, and persuaded him to kill Lord Strickland and his deputy, Sir Augustus Bartolo, the education minister.

It was also alleged that Mr X promised the grocer that if caught after the murders he would be sent to the mental hospital and eventually released when the Nationalist Party returned to power.

The Nationalist Party denied the allegations and challenged the editor of Il Progress to divulge the names of Mr X and the grocer, but the names were never revealed.

Three years after Strickland's assassination attempt, Inspector Saliba's name was once again mentioned when the Police Commissioner informed the then Nationalist Minister of Police that he was holding a special inquiry as he had received information that during the previous Strickland administration Inspector Saliba had offered to murder Lord Strickland, when on or about June 1, 1930, he broached this idea to legal procurator Bertu Mizzi, at the time a Nationalist member of the Legislative Assembly.

When disciplinary proceedings were instituted against Inspector, Mizzi testified that Saliba had approached him and hinted that he could arrange to eliminate Strickland for £20.



The jury found Miller guilty of attempted homicide; he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment- Eddie Attard Mizzi described Saliba as an opportunist who tried to be on good terms with the political party in power in order to achieve his ambitions.

Saliba flatly denied ever making such a statement to his accuser and produced a large number of witnesses to put Mizzi in a bad light.

In his report the Police Commissioner concluded that Saliba had actually made the statement but "it was nothing more than a piece of bluff".

The findings of the inquiry were submitted to Governor Sir David Campbell, who five months later informed the commissioner that, after careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the charge against Inspector Saliba was not proven and it should be dismissed.

The Governor also directed that Saliba should be given a serious warning which should be noted in his record of service.

Strickland's assassination attempt had also been mentioned at the time in the House of Lords.

During question time on November 7, 1934, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, Earl Plymouth, said there was no proof that the attempt was part of a conspiracy to eliminate Lord Strickland.

Asked about the special remission of 15 years from Miller's 1919 prison sentence, Earl Plymouth replied that the Governor of Malta had acted on the recommendation on the Maltese minister responsible.

## Mother and Daughter: Collective exhibition of mosaic and pottery

February is the month of romance and love, and with just that in mind a **programme of events for Valentine's in Gozo** has been organised by the Ministry for Gozo.



This Friday, an exhibition will be opening in Victoria – Mother and Daughter – a collective exhibition of mosaic and pottery by Katrin Formosa and her daughter Lisa, a mosaic artist with 15-years experience.

The materials give the artists the ability to express their love and emotions, creating distinctive art pieces.

Katrin took up ceramics and mosaic as a hobby in 1983, whilst living in New York, where she lived until 1988. She moved back to Gozo and set up her own studio at Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village in 1989.

She creates artistic, abstract, one offs and gallery items which are exhibited at her studio within the Village. Her clientele includes both locals, as well as tourists.

Katrin also teaches pottery and mosaic at the Lifelong Learning Education Centre in Gozo and organises short ceramics and mosaic appreciation sessions for tourists at her studio, as well as pottery sessions for kids in summer.

Mother and Daughter opens Friday, the 1st of February at the Cittadella Cultural Centre – Hall 3 until Thursday, the 28th of February, from 10:00am to 4:30pm everyday. Entrance is free of charge.



**Maltese eNewsletter**  
Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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like wildfire**



## Malta, Israel, agree health collaboration deal

Israeli Health Minister Yakov Litzman and Health Minister Chris Fearné after their talks.

Malta and Israel have signed a collaboration agreement for the health sector.

The agreement was signed in Jerusalem, where Health Minister Chris Fearné is part of a delegation led by

President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca.

The agreement provides for collaboration in health services and a sharing of information in international fora and sharing of information about chemical incidents.

Health Minister Yakov Litzman signed for Israel.



## Ta' Ħaġrat Temple

Set in the heart of Mgarr, a village in Northwest Malta, and smaller than most other sites of a similar nature,

Ta' Ħaġrat is home to two well-preserved structures. The site was excavated between 1923 and 1926 with some other minor interventions in 1953 and in the 1960s. The larger of the two buildings dates from the earliest phases of megalithic construction – the Ġgantija phase (3600 – 3200 BC).

This structure has a monumental doorway and facade which give the site two of its most awe-inspiring and renowned characteristics. Other features include a bench, running along the facade's length, as well as a courtyard, measuring approximately 2.5m by 4.5m, surrounded by a raised stone kerb. This space, accessible through the entrance corridor of the temple, provides access to three chambers through megalithic doorways. The main doorway of this structure was restored in 1937 with the replacement of the door lintel in its original position. The smaller structure, built on a 4-apse plan, is linked to the earlier one through a doorway in the eastern room.

The dating of this building is still uncertain although the finds indicate a Saflieni phase (3,300 – 3,000 BC) date. Ceramic material from both earlier and later periods were also found within the site indicating that the site was used both before and after the construction of the Temples.

This Maltese Prehistoric Temple site is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List and is one of the oldest free-standing monuments of such scale and complexity in the world.

Its monumental and awe-inspiring facade, including the unique stepped doorway leading into the Temple, allows one to appreciate better the genius of Maltese megalithic construction in a time when





## AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS IN ADELAIDE



Australia, we all have our stories - from our origins here on this land, or from far away, we are all building the stories which will shape the future we hope to build. Here at the Australia Day Council of SA we get to celebrate and share these stories every day - through programs like the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards, through the stories of our Australia Day Parade recipients or the many stories that unfold each and every day in our communities around the State. There are so many Australian stories to discover and to share, and we

hope that you were able to experience them on Australia Day.

### AUSTRALIA DAY SMOKING CEREMONY



In South Australia, a very special Smoking Ceremony marked the dawn and beginning of the day, acknowledging our shared history with the traditional custodians of the land. The poignant Welcome to Country was performed by Major Sumner and a touching and insightful address was given by Rosemary Wanganeen - you can read it [here](#). Over 300 people joined us for this very special way to start Australia Day in Elder Park. A morning to reflect on what was, what is, and what can be.

### INDIGENOUS GROUPS LEAD AUSTRALIA DAY PARADE



Many members of the states indigenous communities led the Australia Day Parade for the very first time. Our first nations people gave expression to how they see the day through the many banners that they produced. Their voice was heard and respected. A float called "Kumangka, Mukapainga, Tampinga — Together, Remember, Recognise" lead thousands of people from 100 different community groups through the streets of Adelaide to Elder Park (Tarntanya) on Saturday.

### AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE CITY

Unity and togetherness were the two very clear themes of Australia Day in the City 2019. Record crowds gathered in Adelaide to watch the Parade, Concert and Fireworks.

The Parade was a splendour of colour and music as thousands of people made their way from Franklin Street to join the celebrations in Elder Park.

The Veronicas, The Sundance Kids and Fusion Beats had the crowds on their feet with energetic pop numbers and the 21 gun salute, RAAF fly past and the fireworks display was nothing short of spectacular. See the photos from the event on our Facebook page. Did you attend Australia Day in the City?



## IZ-ZUS AND THE COMMEMORATIVE PROCESSION

*November 19, 1944. The statue of the Immaculate Conception being brought back during a pilgrimage from the Birkirkara collegiate church where it was kept during the war.*

There was one famous procession that passed through Ħamrun towards the end of the war in 1944 when Iz-Zus managed to thrust himself into nationwide consciousness.

The heavy bombing Malta experienced during the middle period of WWII was concentrated around the dockyards of the Grand Harbour and spilled over into neighbouring towns. One town that suffered greatly due to its proximity to Dock No.1 was Cospicua, one of the ancient Three Cities that lie across the harbour from Valletta. The frequent air raids convinced the Cospicua parish church authorities to seek permission to move their prized statue of the Immaculate

Conception, along with the church's large titular painting, to the outlying town of Birkirkara in order to protect them in the event that the church was damaged or destroyed. Miraculously however, the parish church was one of only a handful of buildings in the central area of Cospicua that survived. After the Allied capture of Italy in September of 1943 brought the relentless bombing raids to an end, it was decided to complete the necessary formalities and make plans to bring both treasures back to their rightful home.

On the morning of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1944, most of the good people of Cospicua had gathered in the main square of Birkirkara as part of a procession to respectfully accompany the beloved statue and painting back to their parish church. News of the pending ritual had spread by word of mouth across the entire island nation and the people of Cospicua were joined by thousands of other well-wishers from all over the country. The event had become something of a national celebration and an expression of gratitude to the Virgin Mary for delivering Malta from the war. The enduring church at Cospicua had become a metaphor for the survival of the nation.

All along the route between Birkirkara and Cospicua, the windows of dwellings were decorated with banners, framed holy pictures and flowers. Town bands from all over Malta joined the procession that was launched by the pealing bells of the parish church of Birkirkara.

The multitudinous procession slowly made its way down the High Street from Birkirkara accompanied by the music of brass bands. After proceeding for some time, the head of the procession, led by the statue of Our Lady held aloft on the shoulders of honoured men, reached alongside the front steps of the parish church of Ħamrun. At that moment, a huge man in a traditional cloth cap and sleeveless, button-less flannelette shirt strode out into the middle of the High Street and stopped the procession by raising his arms above his head and holding up the palms of his hands in a signal to stop. It was Iz-Zus.

He motioned to the men holding up the statue of the Immaculate Conception to lower the platform. Surprised and confused, the men who were now confronted by this imposing hulk of a man complied, lowered the platform and rested it onto the ground. Iz-Zus pulled out a heavy gold chain from his pocket and placed it over the Virgin's head and around her neck, then moved away to the side of the road. The men once again picked up the timber beams that supported the platform and statue, rested the beams on their shoulders and the procession recommenced its journey to Cospicua. The remarkable incident was publicised in all the newspapers of the time and Iz-Zus became a nationally celebrity.



# RUPERT CRECH - Author



Rupert Grech is a first generation Maltese-Australian writer and equities trader, born of post-war immigrants to New South Wales (NSW), Australia, from the small Mediterranean island of Malta. During childhood, he lived in the low rent suburbs of inner Sydney, eventually moving to the west of the city. Rupert graduated with both a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Diploma in Education from the University of Sydney, during which time he also played in the A-grade Rugby League and was selected to try out for one of the professional clubs. However, he chose to teach in the country region of NSW. Rupert

returned to his studies and completed an Honors degree in Human Geography at the University of New England – Armidale, with his thesis addressing the issue of chain migration between Malta and Australia.

After teaching Business Studies, Legal Studies, and Geography in schools for five years, Rupert visited Malta for the first time, learning about his heritage first-hand. He returned to Australia where he owned and managed a lunchtime cafe in the Blue Mountains. After six years, Rupert returned to teaching and eventually became a highly successful principal of two regional schools in low socioeconomic areas. His leadership, along with the implementation of educational innovations in conjunction with his staff team in one school, resulted in a greater than 50% reduction of the student discipline suspension rate and over 30% increase in student enrollment within three years. Rupert also started farming a 114-acre beef cattle property, during which time he repeatedly attained the highest prices for his cattle at regional sales. He later developed the farm and subdivided it into smaller acreages and building residences. He also performed as lead vocalist and played the guitar or bass in various bands. In addition, he served as a part-time radio announcer on a commercial radio station and wrote a weekly newspaper column, reviewing live music in his home town.

Rupert is the author of the books *Stories My Parents Told Me: Tales of Growing Up in Wartime Malta* (2013; Faraxa Publishing) and *Musings and Mutterings of a Maltese Misanthrope* (2016; Hope & Life Press), both of them containing popular nonfiction short stories in the Melitensia genre. At present, he spends time living alternately in Valletta, Malta and the Blue Mountains, NSW, while trading equities on the Australian Stock Exchange, developing property and writing.

*Musings and Mutterings  
of a  
Maltese Misanthrope*

## Iz-Zus Il-BULI tal' HAMRUN (The Bully of Hamrun) BY Rupert Grech



Rupert  
Grech

Everyone who lived or worked in the vicinity of Hamrun, Malta, around the time of the Second World War feared and avoided the man nicknamed "Iszus", including the local police. Most people were terrified of him. Many people detested him. Some secretly fêted him. But all knew of his infamy.

Hamrun at that time was a poor, tough, working class town. It lies about three kilometres further along the conurbation that spreads south-west along the main road from the capital city, Valletta, through the historic town of Floriana and past the area known as Blata L-Bajda (white rock). The locality mainly consists of small flats and maisonettes housed in narrow, two or three storey buildings of very similar appearance that are attached to each other, side-by-side. The whole area known as Hamrun is around one square kilometre in area and around the time of the Second World War the municipality boasted 1 large parish church along with 2 smaller chapels, 2 band clubs, a police station located at the piazza and a bustling High Street lined with shops, bars and cafes.

The people of Hamrun have an interesting traditional nickname.



Nicknames are popular and ubiquitous in Malta, probably because of the severely limited number of surnames and Christian names in circulation in the past (as recently as 2014, the most popular 100 surnames accounted for 75% of the population). Nicknames are assigned not only to individuals and families, but also to the populations of entire suburbs, villages and towns. Possibly stemming from the fact that many men from Ħamrun worked as stevedores on the nearby docks and carried a knife to work, or perhaps in reference to the community of Sicilians who settled there illegally in the 16th century, the people of Ħamrun are nicknamed *Tas-Sikkina* (literal meaning: “of the knife”) or *Ta’ Werwer* (literal meaning “of those who frighten”).

Perhaps the all-time scariest of them all was a large man in his forties with slightly greying hair known as Iszus, nicknamed after the all-powerful Greek god of thunder, king of all the gods.

Iszus was a huge and powerfully built man who towered over his compatriots. Well over six feet tall, muscular and barrel-chested, he resembled the archetypal 19<sup>th</sup> century circus strongman. Iszus walked with the slow, open gait of a dominant alpha-male. He always wore a traditional cloth cap and did not wear a normal collared shirt but instead, preferred a flannelette, sleeveless and button-less shirt that accentuated his powerful arms. It was said that there was no normal shirt that would fit him properly.

Iszus always had plenty of money even though he never seemed to have a job. He wore heavy gold chains around his neck as he roamed the streets of Ħamrun during the day and night, terrorising residents as well as local businesses. He would often stroll into a café or bar, order a meal or drinks and after having his fill, leave without paying. If any business owner dared to confront him about payment he would stare him down in a threatening way and order the foolhardy proprietor to put it on his tab- a tab that would never be paid. Iszus would do the same type of thing at family run grocery stores, fruit and vegetable barrows, the local barber and even lottery booths. Sometimes, he would stop people in the street and demand cash from them. There were also times when he visited the homes of people he knew and demanded a loan of money that would most likely never be repaid. People were too afraid to challenge him or report him to the police for fear of vicious retribution. Many had heard how violent he became when angered and about the brutal fights he had been involved in with other hooligans and bullies.

The most famous fight involving Iszus was with a dark skinned, North African man from Valletta who was known as Paulo il-Tork (Paul the Turk. In the Maltese vernacular “tork” signifies of dark skinned Arab origin rather than Turkish).

Paulo came to Ħamrun regularly, stirring up trouble and getting into fights. There had always been a strong, traditional dislike between the men of Valletta and Ħamrun due to the visceral rivalry between their respective football teams.

Iszus and Paulo encountered each other on the streets of Ħamrun one day and the inevitable happened. Both men finished up in hospital with significant injuries after a long and vicious marathon of a fistfight that lasted until both men were exhausted, bleeding profusely and held down by policemen.

The ignominious end of the man known as Iszus came as a surprise, some years later. And at the hand of an unlikely protagonist.

Iszus had terrorised the quiet and unassuming owner of a local café for years. Ordering food and drinks the cost of which he demanded be placed on a tab that was never paid, as was his modus operandi. The owner of the café was a short, slightly built man who was by no stretch of the imagination a physical match for the domineering bully. Iszus saw his victim as no threat at all, even comical, when the inconsequential little man repeatedly requested payment. The tension had been building up for a long time when one day, the café owner psychologically snapped. Iszus had ordered a meal and a beer and had consumed both. He got up from his table and turned his back to the counter as if to leave the café without paying one more time. The owner surreptitiously crept up to the bully and crouched behind him as he began to walk away. He then softly called out his name:

“Iszus”.

The big man turned around and looked over the top of the diminutive owner’s head. The café owner raised himself to his full height and in the same motion plunged a knife upwards, deep into his tormenter’s abdomen.

The astonished Iszus gasped. Wild-eyed, mouth open and with a bewildered expression on his face, Iszus looked down inquiringly into the face of his tiny assassin for a brief instant, then lowered his gaze further and observed the knife sticking out of his body. His eyes slowly rolled back into his head and Iszus collapsed onto the floor. The bully of *Tas-Sikkina* was dead.



Hope this email finds you well. I am a third year student currently reading a Master's Degree in Maltese Studies at the University of Malta. As part fulfilment of my post-graduate programme, I am conducting a research under the supervision of Dr. Ray Xerri entitled:

***Do Maltese migrants transmit their native language? A diaspora analysis of Maltese language teaching amongst Maltese migrants of different generations.***

I would like to kindly ask you if, Maltese language classes are still being held and who is teaching Maltese. As part of my research and as a means to gather data, I am forwarding a set of questionnaires (be guided accordingly to each link as explained below) targeted mainly towards Universities/Schools/Institutions/Classes in which the Maltese language is being taught in Canada. Kindly note that there are no right or wrong answers and that all responses will remain anonymous.

I would greatly appreciate if these questionnaires are circulated and brought to the attention of the respective Universities/Schools/Institutions/Classes.

Kindly find the links to three different questionnaires here under.

<https://goo.gl/forms/84AGGbSM0IQ1N09Q2>

(addressed to the **Head** of University/School/Institution/Class where the Maltese language is taught)

<https://goo.gl/forms/RK4vsl9tuoyLM8ss1> (

addressed to the **teachers** who teach the Maltese language)

<https://goo.gl/forms/ZsSUPPcwoUOFRrB72> (addressed to the **students** who are learning Maltese)

Thank you in advance. Kind regards, Elaine Camilleri

## The official languages of Malta are Maltese and English.

Maltese, a language of Semitic origin written in the Latin script, is the national language of Malta. Over the centuries, it has incorporated many words derived from English, Italian and French. **Italian** is also widely spoken on the Maltese Islands.

### Malti - The Maltese Language

The Maltese language is a source of fascination to both visitors and linguists. The Maltese speak a unique language, Malti, the only Semitic language written in Latin characters.

Through the ages, many foreign words, particularly English and Italian, have become part of the language. English, which is also an official language, is widely and fluently spoken and is the language of international business.

What is surprising is that the islanders managed to retain a unique language in face of so many others brought by various powers over the centuries. Maltese was largely only a spoken language until the latter half of the 19th century when its grammatical rules were defined and written down.

The earliest written evidence of Maltese is a ballad by Pietro Caxaro, (d.1485). The Knights attempted to script it as well. The survival of the language is perhaps testament to the resilience of the Maltese to remain a distinct people and culture. Malti is thought to derive from the language of the ancient Phoenicians who arrived in Malta in 750 B.C. The influence of the Arabs who made the Islands home from the 9th to 13th centuries is clear in the Maltese language whose roots are closely akin to Arabic. Place names and numbers are the most obvious examples of Arabic influence on the language.

Enjoying it from the start? Is speaking Maltese easy?

Well nothing is easy at first. Is speaking French easy? It isn't either. However I believe that in life we tend to do good in what we like doing. So if you like the 'sound' of the spoken Maltese language you will soon start to get familiar with the pronunciation in your head. In fact I need to add some video/audio here to introduce you to the pronunciation.

We have 30 letters in our alphabet and the 'y' is missing. Other peculiarities: we have 2 'g', a 'gh', 2 'h', an ie and 2 'z'. Not to worry, but just note that the ċ, the ġ and the ż are dotted. The 'h' is crossed as it is in the 'gh'.

Let's start with the English pronunciation of each letter.

a .....pronounced ah (as in English 'a' in apple)    b .....beh  
 ċ .....ch eh (like in channel)    d .....deh  
 e .....e    f .....eh f feh    g .....jeh (like in general)  
 g .....geh (like in garden)  
 gh .....aye-n. Changes its sound according to the vowel preceeding or following it.  
 ħ .....heh  
 h .....ak kah. This is an 'h' mute and takes the sound of the vowel following it.    i .....e  
 (like in instant)    ie .....e (like in instant - but prolonged)  
 j .....yes    k .....keh (like in khaki)    l .....eh l leh  
 m .....eh m meh    n .....eh n neh  
 o .....oh (like in ohms)    p .....peh  
 q .....guttural sound like the 'k' in Cokney, pronounced Coqney  
 r .....eh r reh    s .....es as in street    t .....te as in tea  
 u .....oo as in zee    v .....vee as in van  
 w .....w as in wet    x .....sh as in sheet    z (without a dot)    ts    z (with a dot)  
 ..... zet as in zoo

**LET'S KEEP THE MALTESE LANGUAGE ALIVE AMONG THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD. MALTESE IS ONE OF THE MOST LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD**

## Gozo tunnel will be built and run by the private sector



A private contractor will have to finance the building of the Gozo-Malta tunnel and would then take over its operation for a number of years depending on its final cost, according to the head of the project's steering committee, Franco Mercieca. The toll set will also depend on the cost, but he insisted that the operator would break even well before the 100-year anticipated lifespan of the tunnel, meaning that the concession period would be "much shorter" than that. In a *Times Talk* interview, he also stressed that the private investor would cover the cost of the tunnel, whereas the cost of three new ferries would have to be covered by the government through taxpayers' money.

The current ferries, which need to be replaced by 2030, would also be replaced by smaller ones, which would still carry cars but whose main focus would be passengers, he said.

Mr Mercieca also said he understood that the fourth ferry would not be purchased but leased – crew and all – for a definite period.



# *George Cross Falcons Centre* *Cringila*

## **MALTESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CLASSES**

**FOR**

**ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

**COMMENCING FEBRUARY 2019**

## **INFORMATION EVENING**

**ON THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY AT 6PM  
AT THE GEORGE CROSS FALCONS CENTRE  
25-27 LAKE AVE, CRINGILA, NSW**

**For more information contact Annemarie on 0405 126 444  
or email [georgecrossfalcons@gmail.com](mailto:georgecrossfalcons@gmail.com)**

Find us on 

**For updates and event information  
[www.facebook.com/georgecrossfalcons](https://www.facebook.com/georgecrossfalcons)**

## F'Jum il-Mewt ta' Mro Joseph Vella 25 ta' Frar 2018

Għażiż Surmast dan kif tagħmel  
Qbadt u tlaqt ma għidt lil ħadd;  
Bla kliem ħallejtna lkoll orfni  
Warajk kien mitluf kulħadd!

Sentejn oħra kont se tagħlaq  
Ħamsin sena d-Direttur  
Ta' 'La Stella' ċ-Ċittadina  
Fost il-baned l-isbaħ f'jur.

Lill-Banda Konti Ruġġieru  
Ħadt ħsiebha għal erbgħin sena  
Għax ma' Natalie fir-Rabat  
Flimkien għixtu fl-akbar hena!

Iżda f'ħakka t'għajn ħrabtilna  
U mort tgawdi lill-Ħallieq  
U sibt lit-Tribun ta' Lidda  
Lilek idawwal it-triq!

Kemm dhert hieni tippreżenta  
Xogħlijietek lil "Tal- Ħaġar" –  
Ward prezzjuż mill-iktar ħlejj  
Illi jsebbah l-isbaħ masġar!

Imma tgħid ħebritek qalbek  
Li ma kontx sa tibqa' magħna;  
Ara ftit f'liema stat ġibtna!  
Imbikkija lkoll arana!

Kont ikona mużikali  
Ismek magħruf kullimkien  
In-noti li ħażiżtilna  
Sa jibqgħu jidwu maż-żmien!

Folol kbar kienu jinġabru  
F'għid San Gorg il-Ħadd fil-għodu  
Biex igawdu il-quddiesa  
Illi griet ma' tagħna l-globu!

Fuq fommna ismek se jibqa'  
Għalkemm għad itulu s-snin;  
Mur strieħ issa mal-Gorġjani  
Wiċċ imb wiċċ mal-Qaddisin!



**Is-Surmast Joseph Vella, kif nafuh ahna, din is-sena jagħlaq sena minn mewtu li hasditu bla ma xejn kien mistenni fl-24 ta' Frar 2018.**

**Qrib id-data ta' dan l-ewwel Anniverarju fil-Ġonna Pubbliċi ta' Villa Rundle Victoria sa jinkixef bust f'għieh il-Mro Vella mhux bogħod minn fejn bust iehor ta' Surmast ċelebri iehor, Mro Gius Giardina Vella u b'hekk donnha qed tivverifika r-ruhha l-holma tas-Sur Pawlu Mizzi Fundatur tal-Klab Kotba Maltin, li dan il-Ġnien Pubbliku bilmod jbda jimtela b'persunaġġi Ghawdxin li ghamlu għieh lil dawn il-gzejjer. Il-Pawlini wkoll tar-Rabat Malta se jfakkru lil dan is-Surmast billi għal medda ta' erbgħin sena kien jidderieġi lill-Banda Konti Ruġġieru!**

**Mill-kitba tal-Kav Joe M Attard - korrispondent regolari tagħna**

**minn Victoria Ghawdex**



## DEAF PEOPLE ASSOCIATION (MALTA)

Deaf People Association represents around 400 deaf people in Malta. They aim to ensure that Deaf persons have equal opportunities to live an independent life of the highest possible quality and to raise public awareness on how Maltese Society can change to offer equal opportunities to Deaf people to enable them to live an independent life of the highest possible quality. Website: [www.deafmalta.com](http://www.deafmalta.com)  
Email: [info@deafmalta.com](mailto:info@deafmalta.com)

### **Il-Lingwa Tas-Sinjali Maltija (LSM)**

(LSM) is the language of the Maltese Deaf Community.

There are currently three routes to Maltese Sign Language courses:

- The Directorate for Lifelong Learning offer Maltese Sign Language levels 1 and 2 as evening courses at a number of locations across Malta.
- The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) offer Maltese Sign Language level 1 and 2 as short courses.
- The University of Malta's Institute of Linguistics also offers some Maltese Sign Language and Sign Linguistics courses to university students through the department's **Maltese Sign Language Project**.

On 16 March 2016, the Maltese Parliament approved the Bill declaring that the Maltese Sign Language is to be considered an official language of Malta.

### **What is a Sign Language Interpreter?**

A Sign Language Interpreter is a professional who interprets between deaf people who use sign language and hearing people who do not know sign language.

Sign language is not universal. In Malta the Sign Language used by the Deaf Community is called Maltese Sign Language or *Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija* (LSM), in the UK Deaf people use British Sign Language (BSL) and in the USA Deaf people use American Sign Language.

Sign Language Interpreters work with a wide range of people in every possible setting - wherever deaf people are found. A typical week can include work in educational, work-related, health, legal, recreational and community settings!

### **Association's Aims**

The aims of the Association are as follows:

- to ensure that Deaf persons have equal opportunities to live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- to exert reasonable pressure on Maltese authorities to ensure that Deaf people have equal opportunities to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality;
- to investigate ways Deaf people can have equal opportunities;
- raise public awareness on how Maltese Society can change to offer equal opportunities to Deaf people to enable them live an independent life of the highest possible quality.
- disseminate information on existing facilities available to Deaf people;
- enter into partnership with Government, Authorities and Organizations that are consonant with the Association's aims;
- encourage international contacts with similar organizations abroad and takes part in international meetings



## €17 million project to add 2,880 graves at Addolorata cemetery and restore chapel



Deputy Prime Minister Chris Fearne on Friday announced a €17 million project that will see 2,880 graves added to the Addolorata cemetery. The project will also include the restoration of the chapel and the main gate of the cemetery, which is Malta's biggest burial site, as well as maintenance work.

There are currently 16,000 graves at Addolorata, with over 300,000 people buried on its grounds.

The extension of the cemetery is expected to take three years while the restoration of the chapel is expected to last six years. Fearne said the project will be in line with the cemetery's neo-gothic style. The cemetery was built in 1869 by architect Emmanuel Luigi Galizia.

The Deputy PM said the cemetery would finally be extended after decades of foot-dragging by previous administrations. Those who wish to purchase a grave should contact the Health Department.



## Teens and parents in Japan and US agree – mobile devices are an ever-present distraction

**Willow Bay** How does technology affect family relationships? Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

As a university professor and a mother of teen boys, I am immersed in a world of young faces buried in their phones. To be

fair, adults, too, are enamored with the tiny, powerful computing devices in the palms of their hands. The patterns of daily life have been forever altered by the ubiquity of digital devices. The world has been rewired. And nobody wrote a user's manual.

Advances in digital media and mobile devices, and the rising power of social media, are changing the way people engage not only with the world but also with close friends and family. This generation of parents faces rapidly emerging and unprecedented challenges in managing digital devices and the activities they enable – and must simultaneously wrestle with these issues in their own lives and in the lives of their children.

I recently led a research project investigating the effects of digital devices on family life in Japan. As part of that work, we compared our results from Japan to studies asking similar questions of U.S. families, conducted by our collaborator Common Sense Media, a nonprofit organization focusing on children and technology. We found Japanese and U.S. families struggling in very similar ways with the impact of technology on their lives, their relationships and each other.

Parents and teens in both societies use online media for long periods every day, which at times causes family stress and arguments. Some feel addicted to their devices, and many worry about family members' apparent addictions to technology. And in both countries, there are children who feel their parents neglect them in favor of digital devices.

### Shared feelings of anxiety

We polled 1,200 Japanese parents and teens to find out how the saturation of cellphones and other devices in family life is playing out in homes and child-parent relationships. We compared their answers to Common Sense's existing research on U.S. teens and parents.

The findings are clear: Parents and teens in the high-tech societies of Japan and the U.S. find it hard to imagine life without mobile phones and tablets. And they share similar struggles with the role of technology

in their lives: In both countries, the “always-on” media environment leads a great many teens and parents to feel the need to check their devices frequently, often several times an hour. And large numbers of parents and teens feel the need to “respond immediately” to texts, social networking messages and notifications.

## IL-QUCCIJA

### Traditional Maltese 1st birthday parties

Of the many Maltese traditions, few have survived as successfully as the ‘Quccija’. Before this, the word ‘Quccija’ referred to a more morbid tradition the Maltese had, that when a family member died they would donate food to the poor to commemorate the deceased. It is not clear how it changed into the joyful tradition that it is today - a celebration of a child’s first birthday when relatives and family friends are invited and, besides the usual party fare, a game is played in which the child’s future is predicted. It has been practiced in this way since the 18th Century. Objects representing different professions, trades or lifestyles are placed on a tray or in a basket and the child crawls towards them. The first object which the child picks up is said to predict that child’s future. In the past the selection for boys was quite different to that of girls however the more modern ‘Quccija’ would include many of the same objects.

Boys used to be presented with tools for traditional trades or professions or even a character trait. If he picked up corn, for example, it was a sign of a liberal personality, an inkstand or pen meant his profession would be that of a notary or lawyer, if a carpenter’s tool then he would be likely to become a carpenter. There were also usually some coins to indicate wealth.

For girls the objects tended to be a needle representing a seamstress, cooking utensils, an egg which represented fertility and also money which in those days would probably have meant making a good marriage. In both cases there was always a religious article for example rosary beads which would indicate that the child was inclined towards a spiritual vocation.

In a modern Quccija there is no limit to the variety of objects which could be presented to either a boy or a girl. Here are some ideas for what you can put on you child’s quccija tray, but do not feel restricted...you can use your imagination:

Calculator – accountant - Computer mouse – career in I.T

Credit Card – banker - Musical Instrument – musician - Book – journalist/author

Chalk – teacher - Ballet Shoe – Dancer - Ball (or any other piece of sports equipment) – sportsman

Comb or brush – hairdresser - Lipstick – beautician/makeup artist - Paintbrush – artist

So for your next child’s first birthday party try out this Maltese tradition. You never know it may predict your child’s future!



### **St. Paul the Apostle Church Maltese-Canadian Community Parish** **3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3 416-767-7054**

#### **Feast of St Paul**

**Friday, February 8, at 7.00pm: CONCERT— an enjoyable evening with the participation of the Malta Band and a variety of talents from members of our Parish family.**

**Saturday, February 9, at 7.00pm: PARISH DINNER DANCE — A Parish Celebration for all the family: good Maltese food, good music, good company. Prices: \$45 Adults, \$20 children. Tickets from Freda Mifsud: 416-762-1891**

**Sunday, February 10, at 10.30am — Eucharistic Celebration (in Maltese and English) in thanksgiving to the life and mission of St Paul.**

## WELCOME! To the



## Maltese Heritage Association of San Francisco Bay Area – USA

The Maltese Heritage Association is a non-profit group whose mission is to promote the Maltese heritage in the

San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

If you would like to become part of the Maltese Heritage Association please email us at [malteseheritageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:malteseheritageassociation@gmail.com).

We are always happy to see new faces at our meetings which are held once a month in Millbrae, California. The mission of the Maltese Heritage Association is to recognize and promote the traditions and culture of the Maltese-American community in the San Francisco Bay Area. We host, participate and contribute to cultural and community events and charitable organizations in an effort to provide the San Francisco Bay Area community and beyond with a greater understanding of the contributions, history, and values of the Maltese people.

**MHA Team (Photo above)** Front Row: Mary Schembri Griggi, Carmen Vella Orton, Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

2nd Row: Julie Orton, Frank Gonzales, Gina Deguara Gonzales, Theresa Schembri Menjivar, Marie Busuttil Garcia, Louis Vella Missing Team Member: Michaela Azzopardi

Board of Directors: Louis Vella, Josie Spiteri Ghiglieri, Carmen Vella Orton, Gina Deguara Gonzales, Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri

Officers: President: Carmen Vella Orton, Vice President: Mary Schembri Griggi, Treasurer: Gina Deguara Gonzales Secretary: Debbie Gatt Ghiglieri, Assistant Secretary: Michaela Azzopardi, Social Media and Public Relations: Julie Orton Members: Frank Gonzales, Rose Marie Busuttil Garcia, Theresa Schembri Menjivar



## MY FUNNY VALENTINE

My Funny Valentine - A Recital with Soprano Kateriana Fenech Award-winning British soprano and vocal coach, Kateriana Fenech, sings an array of musical genres in this lovingly titled intimate vocal showcase. With over two decades of experience, Kateriana has chosen some famous favourites by Bellini, Puccini, Mozart, Strauss, Gershwin, Porter to name a few. Pure voice and piano, delivering stripped back songs of desire, seduction, heartbreak and unadulterated devotion! Maltese pianist Ramona Zammit Formosa accompanies Kateriana on the beautiful Steinway Grand.

- Time; 8 pm
- Venue: Palazzo De La Salle 219, Republic Street, Valletta Date: 14 February 2019

- Website: [www.ticketline.com.mt/bookings/Shows.aspx?ProductionId=637&aff=whatson](http://www.ticketline.com.mt/bookings/Shows.aspx?ProductionId=637&aff=whatson)





## **VALLETTA - ENTRANCE**

