



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
Connecting expatriates and communities



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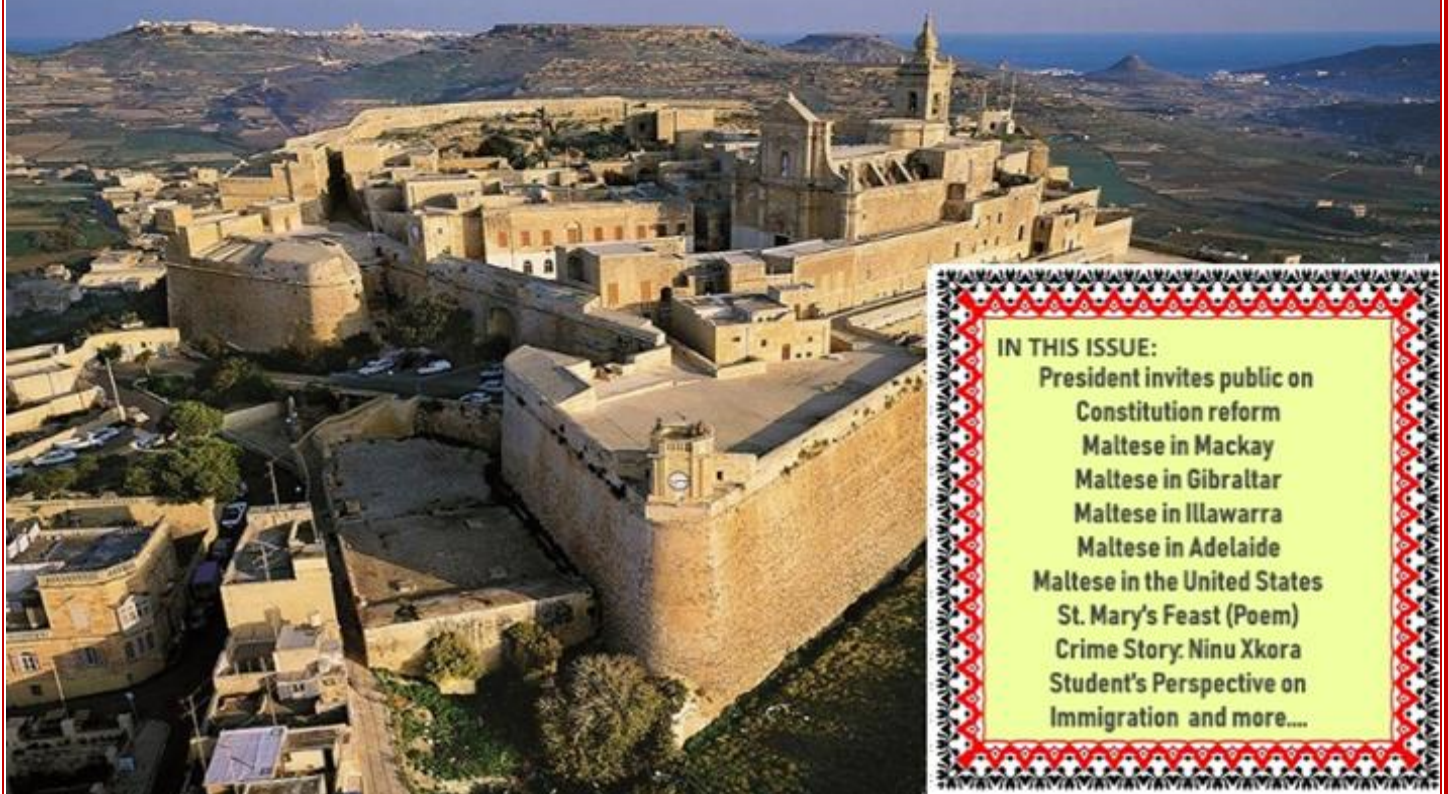


Fr. Gabriel Micallef OFM
Retiring after 23 years of service
to the Maltese Community of SA

The Church that the Maltese built Lockleys South Australia



IC-CITTADELLA - GOZO - MALTA



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Updated: President Vella launches constitutional reform public consultation exercise

Jeremy Micallef

President George Vella yesterday launched a public consultation exercise that will lead to the much awaited constitutional reform.

The launch of a website, riformakostituzzjonali.gov.mt, will be an avenue via which recommendations and suggestions may be forwarded.

The website includes links that direct the user straight to a copy of the current constitution and the process through which it will be reformed in both the English and Maltese languages.

Adverts will also be shown on local media to encourage people to take part in this process. The process will not be accepting any anonymous inputs.

Speaking at the press conference, President George Vella said that this must be dealt with in a holistic manner, and in a way that does not stretch on.

He noted that there were "suspicions" that the two major parties will be making their own decisions on the constitutional reform, and agreed that these circumstances would never be a credible option for the people. "It must be completely open for everyone," the President insisted.

The President continued by pointing out that submissions had already been made over the years, from political parties and a number of academics. This website, he said will allow everyone to have the right to express their ideas on this reform.

The public will have a period of three months to send in their proposals, after which a group specially trained for this will analyse this data. P.O. Box 40 is also available to receive any hard copies of proposals being put forward.

The constitutional reform began under President Emeritus Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, who had previously been appointed by the two main political parties to discuss plans for constitutional reform.

Current President George Vella took her place on the steering committee following his inauguration as president.

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had pledged to revise the Constitution, and former PN MP Franco Debono was made chair of a constitutional reform convention after the 2013 election. It was later decided, however, that Former President Coleiro Preca will chair the reform.

Both the Nationalist and Labour party are represented by three people per party on the steering committee- with former Deputy Prime Minister Louis Grech, Minister for Justice Owen Bonnici and Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms Julia Farrugia Portelli representing PL, and former minister Tonio Borg, MP Chris Said and Amy Camilleri Zahra representing PN.



Consul-on-the-Move

The **Consul-on-the-Move Program** was launched on 5 May 2016, in accordance with the Passports Office within Identity Malta Agency, and conforms with the Government's vision to have Governmental services closer to the citizens. It provides a number of Consular services (that are normally available at Maltese Embassies and Consulates) in different locations.

The need for this Program was seen after the introduction of biometric passports, that led Maltese applicants living abroad to go physically to the nearest Maltese Embassy or Consulate in order to capture biometric data. This was resulting to an inconvenience, especially due to additional expenses including costs for travel and accommodation.

This Program is currently focusing on **Australia, Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand**. All Consular services currently available at the Maltese Embassies and Consulates continue to remain available. For certain services provided, an **additional administrative fee** applies. In accordance with Legal Notice 221 of 2016, the administrative charge for passport applications is €100 for each application, whilst that for citizenship applications is €50 for each application, over and above other related fees.

The following is the **updated list of scheduled visits for 2019**:

Cairns – Queensland Australia	4 September
Mackay - Queensland Australia	6-7 September
Bisbarne - Queensland Australia	9-13 September
Adelaide South Australia	14 September
Cardiff (United Kingdomn)	6 September
Alberta (Canada)	27-29 September Venue to be announced
Michigan (USA)	17-19 October Venue to be announced
Manchester (United Kingdom)	1 November
Auckland Wellingtonm)NZ)	November (Tentative Date)
San Francisco USA November	November (Tentative Date)

It is worth noting that the service is available by appointment only. For further information, one may wish to contact the respective location focal point as follows:

Location	Email address	Contact number
Australia/New Zealand	consul.canberra@gov.mt	+61 (02) 6290 1724
Canada	consul.toronto@gov.mt	+1 (416) 207 0922/0989
USA	consul.washington@gov.mt	+1 (202) 4623611/2
UK	consul.london@gov.mt	+44 (0) 207 292 4800

It is highly recommended that closer to the scheduled date/s of the visits, one consults the relevant Mission/s coordinating the visits to ensure that there are no changes in dates and venues



IL-KAMRA TA' BARRA – the outside room in Sliema



Shared on Facebook and Twitter

Parking Space Events (Greta Muscat Azzopardi, Johannes Buch and Letta Shtohryn) recently collaborated with Margerita Pulè to produce *Il-Kamra ta' Barra*.

The short artistic intervention recreated the atmosphere of a respectable and elegant sitting room in a site adjacent to a large building site in Howard Street, literally bringing the *karma ta' barra* [Outside room].

Offering visitors a comfortable armchair and a drink, *Il-Kamra ta' Barra* explored possibilities around the now ever-present building sites that dot the area, and indeed much of Malta.

Passers-by and guests were invited into the *kamra ta' barra* and asked how they feel about the changes around Sliema and what they think makes a good neighbourhood.

People were invited to cross the non-existent boundary between 'outside' (ie the street) and 'inside' (the temporary sitting-room), and to sit and discuss issues of public space, neighbourhoods and urban aesthetics.

Many residents of Sliema and other nearby localities, as well as artists and academics visited the event to experience the outdoor *karma ta' barra* and speak to the artists.

Suggestions, thoughts and even predictions were recorded by the artists for possible use in future interventions and to pass on to Sliema Council.

"People complain about construction but then enjoy the money that comes from it" said one passer-by. "We used to live in Sliema but our landlord sold the house" another explained.

"*Qed nitilfu kollox hawn.*" (We're losing everything over here) "*Tas-Sliema kissruha*" (They have broken Sliema) "The national bird of Malta is a crane."

The project challenges popular concepts of quality of living - what actually makes a neighbourhood a good place to live? It looks at beauty and other aesthetic qualities in a neighbourhood, both outside, and inside. What defines a beautiful wall? And what makes a space a public or a private space?

The old neighbourhood of Sliema, which houses many *kmamar ta' barra*, is under attack from rapid over-development, with little regard for quality of life or neighbourhood aesthetics.

Bare concrete walls have replaced elegant facades, while behind them, *kmamar ta' barra* are obliterated to make way for underground car-parks. At the same time, as reconstruction projects set in, each space undergoes its personal journey, from private, to painfully public, to potentially open and public, to semi-public - as it is worked on - and back to extremely private again.

Borders - first a stone wall, then sometimes nothing, then a metal cage, then a green mesh, sometimes a breeze-block wall, then back to a closed brick or glass wall all play a role in this intimate process. (Times of Malta)

ORDER OF MALTA - PALLIATIVE CARE

Education program to facilitate integration of foreigners



Photo: Rene Rossignaud

Learning Works, a subsidiary company of the Vassallo Group accredited as a further and higher education institution by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education Institutions, has launched a number of courses aimed at facilitating the integration of foreigners within the workforce and in society.

They include a level four three-month course leading to an award in discovering diversity potential in the workplace. It is ideal for companies with a culturally-diverse workforce that wished to train managers and supervisory staff in how to deal with challenges that

may arise. Part of the course, which will be directed by Viviana Premazzi, founder at Global Mindset Development, focuses on other aspects of diversity.

Learning Works is also offering a level one award programme in Maltese language and cultural orientation for foreigners as well as an award in the English Language pegged at the same level.

Further information may be obtained from www.learningworks.edu.mt,

email: info@learningworks.edu.mt.



Five-year-old girl successfully completes course in Maltese and Maltese Culture

Report: Maria Muscat

A five-year-old Algerian girl was among 40 immigrants who successfully completed a course in Maltese culture and the English Language. This programme trains persons to integrate into Maltese society.

Istabraq Bounab's Algerian family has been resident in Malta for about eight years and she was the youngest of the 40 participating immigrants in a course organised by the group Cross Culture International financed by the

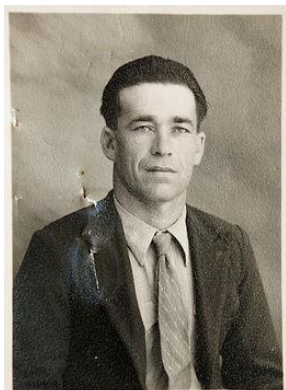
Government and EU Funds which aims to integrate participants into Maltese culture, religion and language as well as the English Language. The project resulted from an initiative by the Parliamentary Secretariat for EU Funds.

Among those who learnt proficiency in the Maltese Language was the Libyan Aisha Mohamed and others who highly appreciated the integration course.

Teacher Juniper Francalanza said she was highly surprised by the strong interest shown by all students. "Definitely enriching, students eager to learn and open to learn about each other's experiences", she commented.

The group Cross Culture works strongly with foreign persons with the aim of Maltese society integration and provides a number of educational and cultural programmes.

Maltese American Heritage Day - A Personal Experience



My name is Rena (Nazarena) Xuereb, and I am the youngest of seven children. My father, John Xuereb, (Ganni ta Grima) left for the United States in 1950 and quickly secured a job at Ford Motor Co., earning \$2.00 an hour working in the hot coke ovens. My father managed to purchase a car and a home near St. Anne's Catholic Church, all while renting a room from a Maltese lady names Sara in Corktown.

John's passport photo in 1950

Ten months later he sent for us. My mother Josephine (Giuseppa) Gauci Xuereb hesitated because that would mean she would be leaving her oldest child Marija Xuereb Gatt, who was married with two small boys. She resentfully left her island, left her family, left her eldest child not knowing she would ever see her again.

Passports were in order and in June of 1951 we left for the States. Picture thirteen days on a ship with six children from 19 to 4 years of age! Let me point out that none of us spoke English and some were severely seasick the whole trip. We made it to the Port of New York then arrived in Detroit by train, with my father waiting for us.



The Xuereb family's first portrait in the United States, taken in 1953.

We moved to the Holy Redeemer area a year later, and since there was a large concentration of Maltese in Detroit we never felt like immigrants, everyone was like us. Mothers kept cooking Maltese foods, pastizzi were a staple. Men would dress in suits and hang out on Sundays. The downtown Detroit Maltese Club on Michigan Ave. was the glue that kept everyone together. We had Maltese priests like Fr. Cefai, Fr. Cini, and now Fr. Joe Mallia who were and are a big part of our community. We had social functions at the

club, everyone was happy. A second Maltese Club in Dearborn opened its doors in the 1980s to accommodate the families moving out to the suburbs.

We slowly adjusted to our new home and our new surroundings. My brother stated we were in America and had to start speaking in English. I was the youngest and just turned 4 years old, I can't recall anything about Malta or our ship experience. Although I have no past memory of Malta as a child before we left, my heart never left.

My parents eventually started going to Malta every couple of years, enjoying their time with family and their oldest daughter they hadn't seen for years. I find myself going to Malta several times a year with my husband Fernando Campos who also loves Malta. Maybe I'm trying to make up for those first few years of my life, trying to fill the gap. Each and every time I get my first view of my Malta from the plane my hair stands up and as soon as I'm on land I feel like I've never left.

When in Malta I'm asked where I'm from because of my American accent. I jokingly say St. Paul's Bay knowing damn well they mean where am I living. Then they ask again, Canada? Australia? I say no, America.

I've had my dual citizenship for a number of years now and I find people in Malta say, oh your not Maltese because you left so young. They might as well stab me with a dagger, that hurts terribly. I immediately pull out my Maltese passport and ask them what does that say? I have so much pride in my Maltese heritage that I do a lot of research. My family line goes back 12 and 13 generations to the 1500s, so don't tell me I'm not Maltese.

Then just the opposite, I get Americans who say you were born here right? They are quite shocked when I tell them no, in fact, I was born on the island of Malta. Sometime I get, where is that? Fortunate for me, that's when I can start bragging like a historian about history, temples, beaches, sunshine and on and on.



The Xuereb children, in birth order, returned to Malta in 1998 for their sister's 50th Wedding Anniversary. From left to right is Mary, Grace, Joe, Victor, Frank, Dolores, and Rena.

My family, minus my mother, all became American citizens. In 1967, I was sworn in and felt a great sense of pride. Our recent trip to the State Capitol brought out that pride once again with all the Maltese presence and those in spirit.

Seeing all those people there, hearing Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci sing both the American and Maltese national anthems. Watching our first Maltese legislator Darrin Camilleri give a history of Malta and our contributions to Detroit, then introducing a resolution to declare September 21 as Maltese American Heritage Day in the State of Michigan -- the same day we recognize Malta's independence. Once again my hair stood up as if I was flying over Malta and seeing it for the first time.



Rena Xuereb lives in The City of Belleville, MI with her husband Fernando Campos. They have six children and four grandchildren. She is a member of the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn where she is a trustee on the executive board. Rena is currently working on a book, entitled "Courage of a Maltese Immigrant." She wants to share stories her mother passed on to her and her siblings, regarding life in Malta and the courage it took to eventually leave the island



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Carmelo Abela, said that Malta is taking an active part in the international governance of the oceans.

He was addressing a meeting of Ocean Ambassadors in the presence of EU Commission officials and the Commonwealth as they continued to draw up a common strategy for the sustainable development of oceans.

"If not now, when? If not us, who?" was the message given by EU Commission

"If not now, when?" Oceans Ambassadors meeting in Malta

Report: Daphne Cassar

representatives, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and a number of officials from different Governments attending the first forum of international Ocean Ambassadors in Malta. The scope is for concrete actions to be taken to prevent further damages to the world's oceans and seas.

Malta's Ocean Ambassador, Professor Alan Deidun said the Malta meeting is a historical one because it is uniting different institutions to produce a greater synergy in ocean governance.

He said that an international study carried out three years ago gave a picture of severe

concern on the state of the world's oceans and seas. Professor Deidun said that increasingly, sea water is becoming more acidic and this is impacting coral and other items, sea levels are rising as a result of climate change while there is also the problem of plastics, fishery problems and a number of other things affecting the sea bottom including excavations that are creating more damage and destruction.

The UN Ocean Envoy, Peter Thomson, said the Malta meeting is giving impetus to the agreements reached during the 2017 Oceans Conference. He said that despite various interests, there appears to be agreement about the actions that need to be taken to favour the sustainability of the seas.

"There are a lot of things happening now, but we have to make sure that they are being

properly coordinated, that everybody understands what is happening in each other's tracks, and all of these tracks are now about action," said Thomson.

Addressing the meeting of the six Ocean Ambassadors from the world's continents, the EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella and Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland explained the EU and Commonwealth efforts to promote oceans protection as well as marine ecosystems in conformity with international legislation.

Minister Carmelo Abela said Malta is actively participating in the international governance of the seas.

Men involved in murdering Maltese man in Somalia sentenced to death



Paul Formosa was shot and killed in February in an Al-Shabaab attack. Paul Formosa was shot dead in February in an attack claimed by Islamist group Al-Shabaab. Photo: Facebook

The men charged with being involved in the murder of a Maltese port manager in Somalia have been sentenced to death by a military tribunal, Somali media have reported.

Paul Anthony Formosa was shot and [killed in February](#) in the Port of Bosaso, in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland state.

The 52-year-old from Marsascala, was working as a manager at P&O Ports when he was killed in an attack by militants posing as fisherman. Islamist group Al-Shabaab said it was behind the killing.

Somalia's Garowe Online reported on Thursday that 11 men and a woman had been accused.

A member of the Puntland Maritime Police Force was among those sentenced to death for "facilitating" the assassination. A man described as the head of Al-Shabaab's intelligence wing in Mogadishu was also handed the death sentence.

It was not clear if all the 11 accused had been sentenced to death but the woman was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The website said 'several others' were sentenced to death in absentia.

Mr Formosa was shot in the head by two attackers on February 4. One of the aggressors was killed by security forces, and the second was captured and later died in hospital.

It was part of a wider attack by Al-Shabaab on what it described as "mercenary companies" in Somalia.

Mr Formosa worked for Dubai-based DP World, which has a 30-year concession to manage the port. The deal was hugely controversial and sparked protests during which at least one person was killed.

Together with a similar deal in the nearby breakaway region of Somaliland, the concession was declared void by the Somali government, which accused the operator of violating the country's sovereignty.



L-Assunta reġgħet magħna!

Għal darb'oħra ġewwa beltna reġgħet waslet festa kbira – din hi l-festa tal-Assunta, ta' kulhadd bla dubju l-mira!

Ta' kull sena f'nofs Awwissu folol kbar minn kullimkien erħilhom jinvalu r-Rabat – dan tas-sena l-isbaħ żmien.

Jiġu wkoll f'utna mis-safar sabiex jiehdu ttit mistrieħ waqt li jduqu mill-frott Malti – għeneb, frawli u bettieħ.

U fil-Ġnien ta' Villa Rundle iżuru l-Wirja Agrarja fejn il-fjuri jiżfnu f'festa u l-pulmuni jmtlew bl-arja!

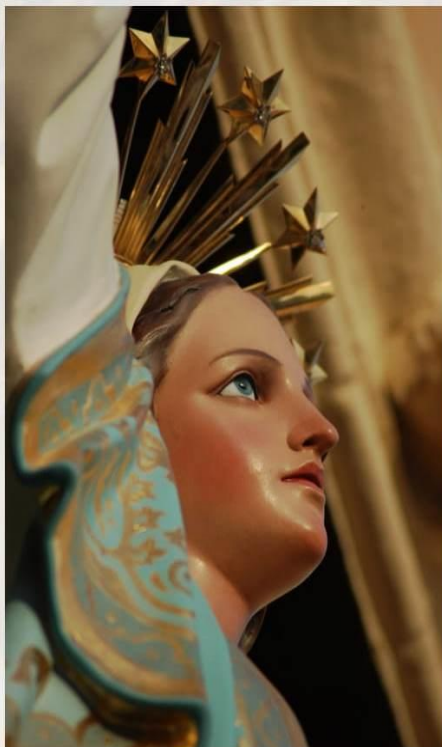
Folol kbar jintasbu kmieni biex jaraw it-tigrijiet li jsiru f'nofs ir-Rabat biex jintrebħu l-Palijiet!

U l-Knisja Katidrali tfur bin-nies deħlin, heġin, imsaħħrin minn dik l-istatwa b'dawk għajnejha sbieħ, hełwin

illi fil-ħmistax t'Awwissu mat-toroq fuq l-ispallejn toħroġ hienja lilna tbierek, b'dmugħ iġelben mill-għajnejn.

It-triqat ixiddu l-libsa, il-baned minn kullimkien erħilhom ferħana jdoquq lir-Regina tal-ħolqien.

Is-sema saġfi jmtela b'tal-bombi u l-isparar illi jġennu u jħawwad u ma jħalli 'l hadd id-dar!



Mhux hekk jixraq lill-Assunta, l-ikbar fost il-qaddisin illi tat lid-dinja 'l Binha biex jarana mifdijin!

O Marija, ibqa' magħna, mument wieħed titlaqniex; inti taf kemm aħna dgħajfa, waħidna la tħalliniex.

Dan il-ferħ li ġġib dil-festa huwa ferħ ġenwin, sincier, li ma t'tihx id-dinja tagħna għaliex ġej m'għand il-Missier

li lid-dinja taha lil Ommu biex tkun l-Avukata tagħna: din tmexxina minn idejna, tul ħajjtna tindukrana.

Dal-poplu ma baqax lura, lill-Assunta ħabb bi kbir – f'disa' nħawi f'Malta u Għawdex lilha jagħti kull tifħir.

Ħutna wkoll ġewwa l-Awstralja jagħmlulha festa mill-kbar, tal-'flew' Ċikku dlonk iħabrek, jinvolti lill-kbar u ż-żgħar!

Kif Awwissu jasal f'nofsu dawn il-gzejjer iqimuk, flejjes kbar arahom jonfqu, imħabbithom dlonk juruk!

Għalenija għajta waħda b'vuċi soda u qawwija tisma' dlonk lill-poplu jgħajjat: "Evviva Santa Marija!".

Kav. Joe M. Attard

ritratt: JJP Zammit

Il-Belt Victoria, Għawdex

2019

Parish Church of Christ the King - Lockleys SA



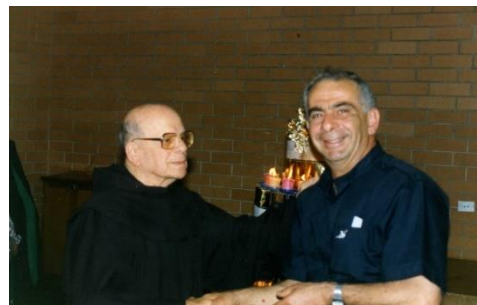
The Parish of Christ the King at Lockleys, South Australia this year has celebrated its 59th Birthday. The Parish of Lockleys and the South Australia. Maltese Community Chaplaincy know their origin to the same and one person, Fr. Giles Ferriggi OFM.



It all started in the immediate years after World War 2 when the Maltese started emigrating to the four corners of the globe, looking for a more promising future, since back home jobs were becoming hard to acquire.

Fr. Giles together with other Maltese Franciscans offered their services abroad with the emigrants and he arrived in Adelaide in 1948. The then Archbishop of Adelaide, His Grace Matthew Beovich offered him residence at Archbishop's House in the city and appointed him as Chaplain to the Maltese Community.

A year later he was joined by Fr Sebastian Camilleri and both were offered a plot of land with a big house at Lockleys. The Chapel in this Franciscan House served as a place of worship for the neighbourhood. It became the church for locals and many Maltese migrants. The dream and vision of the first Franciscans started becoming a reality. Their pastoral work increased, so much so, that in November 1950 another priest from Malta, in the person of Fr. Peter Paul Mejlaq, joined them. A Nissen Hut to serve as a Church was built next to the house and was blessed by Archbishop Matthew Beovich on August 3, 1952 thus giving birth to the New Parish. Malta kept sending Friars to help in the running of the Parish to date, fifteen in all. In 1960 a bigger Church dedicated to Christ the King started to be built and was officially blessed on September 3, 1961 while the Nissen Hut now was to serve as a Parish Community Hall.



Fr Giles Ferriggi and Fr Gabriel Micallef

To have it all complete St. Francis Primary School was built and was officially opened in 1966 and a new Hall replacing the Nissen Hut was built in 1980. To add flavour to it, on the same grounds adjoining the Friary, the Maltese Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1987 started running their St. Raphael's Home for the Aged and in 1990 were housed at the old Friary House and made it their Regional House, where the Friars moved to a newly bought adjoining residence

Here is the list of Franciscan priests who served at the Christ the King Parish, Lockleys South Australia: Fr. Giles Ferriggi 1948 – 2000, Fr. Sebastian Camilleri 1949-53 and 1992-2003, Fr. PeterPaul Meilaq 1950-60 and 1976-1078, Fr. Vittorin Alessandro 1952-54, Fr. Benedict Ellul Mercer 1957-1958, Fr. Leopold Farrugia 1962-75, Fr. Philip Briffa 1962-68, Fr. Marcellinus Mejlaq 1967-75, Fr. Edward Zammit 1972-75, 1978-83 and 1994-2003, Fr. Emidius Cremona 1977-78, Fr. Felix Mansueto 1979-1991, Fr. Richard Grech 1983-84, Fr. Godfrey Micallef 1987-93, Fr. Anthony Vella 1992-95 and Fr. Gabriel Micallef 1996 -



If you are a member of the Maltese community in Adelaide, chances are you will know Horace and Doris Cassar, and if you are a parishioner at Christ the King Church, Lockleys, there is no doubt you will have witnessed and benefited from their tireless volunteer work over half a century.

Not that the Cassars will ever willingly tell you about it. As Horace points out from the onset, "I don't want to show off or make a fuss" – and he would be more than happy to leave it there.

But as a fellow parishioner revealed in a letter to *The Southern Cross*, the Cassars epitomise what 'living Catholic' really means and their "beautiful story of goodness, giving, sincerity and love" needs to be shared.

Devout Catholics and Doris emigrated from Malta at different times during the 1950s. They met through their faith, when attending Mass at St Patrick's Church in the city, fell in love and married in 1964. They moved to Lockleys, started attending Christ the King Church and have been serving the parish ever since.

Over the years their volunteer work has included helping the Maltese priests and Sisters (who run St Raphael's Home for the Aged) with maintenance jobs and in his work as an inspector at the then SA Gas Company, Horace was instrumental in finding work for more than 80 members of the Maltese community.

Tireless workers for the Adelaide Maltese community

Southern Cross

He and Doris were also very active in the establishment of St Francis School, which their children Joe and Theresa attended. In what were very different times, Horace recalled how he was given permission to use equipment from the Gas Company on the weekends to build a road into the school when it was first developed.

Since retiring from the Gas Company 30 years ago, Horace has devoted his spare time to attending to a variety of maintenance jobs for the Maltese Franciscan Sisters and priests.

"I've done a lot of work, but I love it. I was at the nursing home this morning to fix something.

"If a curtain is falling down, one of the doors is jammed, they say 'call Horace'.

"One Christmas at six in the morning I got a call to say their hot water service was not working. So I went and fixed it.... it's just what you do," he said.

Likewise, Doris is also a tireless helper and her great cooking skills are often on show when she has the Sisters over for a meal.

They attend Mass every week day at the Salesian priests' residence – "it's at 7.30am as the 9am Mass at Lockleys is too late," Horace explained – and on weekends they are regulars at Christ the King.

While both octogenarians have had their share of major health issues over the years, they have no plans to cut back their service to the Maltese community and say their strong faith provides all the motivation they need



Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott

Foreign Affairs Minister inaugurates Valletta hall in honour of Dom Mintoff

On the 103rd anniversary of Dom Mintoff's birth, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela inaugurated a hall dedicated to the memory of Mintoff at Palazzo Parisio in Valletta which serves as the building of the Ministry.

Between 1971 and 1981 Dom Mintoff served as the second Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta as an Independent country and the first Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta as a Republic.

In his speech, Minister Abela said, "till today - when abroad and Malta is mentioned, the name Mintoff is still pronounced. In his life and after, he remained one of those personalities who is either loved or hated - but surely a personality one cannot be indifferent about".

Minister Abela added that through the inauguration of this hall, the Ministry will continue to reckon Don Mintoff's vision and values in the area of foreign affairs. In this regard he referred to the importance given by Mintoff to security in the Mediterranean in order for there to be peace and security in Europe. He also made reference to the relationship with countries and nations across the world, and the boost in employment due to commerce.

Returning to the place where we fell in love



Couple who met in 1950s Malta return to celebrate diamond anniversary

Jessica Arena

Pete and Jane Felton. Photo: Jonathan Borg

If there's a word that perfectly describes Pete and Jane Felton, it is smitten.

The couple canoodle and stroll leisurely hand in hand through the streets of Senglea, not just the place where Jane grew up but the cradle of many happy memories where their relationship began to bloom.

Jane was just 16 and Pete a 21-year-old naval officer attached to Fort Ricasoli when they met at 100, St Joseph Street, Senglea.

The couple, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary today, met in 1958, when it was love at first sight.

"The first thing he ever said to me managed to upset me," Jane recounts with her mouth curled into a smile.

"I wanted some stamps," Pete interjects, "and I saw her on the street and asked her, 'where can I get some stamps little girl?' and her face went red, 'Little girl', she said, 'not me!'," he says with a chuckle.

The pair were introduced via a lodger who lived in an apartment above Jane's family home. The lodger, who was a friend of Pete's, had invited a number of people over for Easter, which also happened to fall on Pete's April 15 birthday. Enamoured of Jane from the get-go, Pete spent quite a bit of time looking down from his friend's balcony to catch a glimpse of "the most beautiful girl in the world" before working up the courage to ask her to go for a walk on the Senglea waterfront.

"That's all we were allowed to do 60 years back," Jane quips, earning another hearty chuckle from Pete.

"We've been blessed with a good life and a good marriage." - Pete Felton

Of course, they weren't alone, courtship being what it was: Jane's older brother would often follow the pair from a distance while the couple would make a game out of losing him around a sharp corner.

"It was the most enjoyable time of my life, I loved every minute of it," Pete says.

Marriage was quickly proposed and eagerly accepted between the two. However the road to wedded bliss wasn't initially a smooth one for Pete and Jane. After asking permission to get married, Pete was sent home to England for a time by his superiors, to discourage him from settling in Malta and phasing out of the navy.

Jane also found some opposition from her family, given her age, their different religions and having to relocate to England.

"There were many things working against us not to get married," Jane says, "but it must have been meant to be, with all the things that happened, I've never regretted it. *"We've been blessed with a good life and a good marriage."*

The couple's daughter Alison says that Malta was always a big part of the family's life, which is why it was imperative to return for their wedding anniversary.

"This will always be where we come back," she says. "It's our second home."



Rebranded Valletta Military Tattoo 2019 at St. George's Square, Valletta

Brandon Pisani



Following last year's success, the Malta Military Tattoo, will once again be held at St George's Square, Valletta during the last weekend of September.

Several military groups will perform in what has now become an annual calendar event.

Five local bands, three foreign bands and two other groups – one local and one foreign – will participate in this year's edition of the Military Tattoo which has come to be known as the Valletta Military Tattoo.

Valletta Cultural Agency Chairman Jason Micallef said that the change in name will enhance the popularity of this activity.

"We felt that having an activity such as the Malta Military Tattoo every year in Valletta was somewhat iconic. But we wanted to rebrand it using the name Valletta. We strongly believe that in google terms, the word 'Valletta' is five times more popular than 'Malta' which is why we think that Valletta Military Tattoo fits the bill." Addressing a press conference at St George's Square, Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre CEO, Anita Mifsud explained that after last year's success when the Malta Military Tattoo was held in Valletta, a decision was taken for the activity to be held in St. George's Square. In addition to key players including the band of the Police Force, the Police's Precision Drill Team and the Band of the Armed Forces of Malta, other bands and foreign groups will also participate. The Valletta Military Tattoo will be held between the 20 and 22 September 2019.



What to do if you lose your passport or ID card when abroad

Although a passport or identity card are among the most important items needed by anyone travelling abroad, it is not unknown for these to be mislaid or stolen during one's travels. Which, in turn, could result in considerable inconvenience.

Through a European Union Directive, if there is no embassy or consular representation in the country where the loss occurs, as European Union citizens we can use the services of consulates or embassies of other European Union countries.

This also applies in instances when we are in countries which are not EU members.

It is estimated that some seven million citizens travel or reside in a country where their country of origin is not represented through an embassy or consulate.

With more and more European Union citizens travelling and even residing in different countries, this form of assistance is becoming even more important, particularly for citizens from small countries like Malta which might not have worldwide consular or embassy representation.

It is also good to know that apart from instances of lost or stolen passports or identity cards, this assistance also applies in instances of arrest or detention of an individual, when one falls victim to some crime, in cases of accidents or serious illnesses, or in the event of death.

This directive continues to provide important rights to citizens, both in terms of access as well in regard to equal treatment for every European Union citizen. **MEUSAC**

Two Maltese caught in the middle of an invasion



Noel Grima

L-Istar tal-Imghoddi. Author: Alfred Massa. Publisher: Horizons 2018.

This novel was published first in 1977 by Klabb Kotba Maltin when the events of the Prague Spring and the 1968 invasion by Russian troops was still fresh in people's minds. It has been republished now, after 50 years, but perhaps people do not remember the tragic 1968 events so perhaps that part of the book that provides background may seem irrelevant to those readers looking for a good story or, on the other hand, may provide important background that has been forgotten.

The story is soon understood: two Maltese doctors, fresh from their studies in London, decide to go on a holiday and choose Prague, then very much in the news because of the Prague Spring.

In those times, there was one country - Czechoslovakia - now divided into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Communist Party still ruled but it was led by Alexander Dubcek, a reformer. His reforms were causing panic in Russia and in the other East European countries under the Communist rule.

For the two Maltese doctors, Prague was a complete surprise. One of the doctors, Karmenu, falls in love with a comely employee of the hotel and clandestinely marries her.

But then, on 20 August 1968, Russian tanks invade the country to try and reverse the Dubcek reforms. The people of the country rise up in protest but the Russian repression is hard and people get killed.

In all this, Karm has only one aim - to get out and bring with him his wife.

Once the preliminaries are over, it becomes a tense read as it was not easy for a foreigner to escape from behind the Iron Curtain, and with a wife in tow!

As all those who have been to Prague in recent years can tell, there has been an incredible change these past 50 years. The former Czechoslovakia is now two countries. They are out of the Russian empire, members, like us, of the EU. They have become boringly normal countries with a consumer economy, enjoying a far better lifestyle than at any time under the Russians.

But they would not be here were it not for the courage shown by so many young people in 1968 who stood up for their freedom and independence when faced with tanks on their streets.



CRIME: THE CASE OF NINU XKORA

[Denise Formosa](#)

Ninu Xkora has become a legend and part of our Maltese folklore. This man was hanged as he had killed his daughter's lover, a thirty year old man who was seducing Xkora's fifteen year old daughter.

Did this father have no right to defend his daughter from this pedophile? Was he given a fair trial, when the whole courtroom spoke Italian, as was customary in those days, and he did not understand what was being said against him? Was he

given a decent burial? All these questions arise when we speak about this man who was unjustly treated by eighteenth century society.

The story starts when Ninu, grieved by his wife's death and the death of 4 of his offspring, used to drink and play cards only to end up in considerable debt with Joseph Camenzuli - who eventually became his daughter's lover. He used to refuse to go home and eat with his 2 remaining daughters and found refuge in Camenzuli's inn, drinking and spending money uncontrollably.

One night, Stella his daughter, came to tell her father that their maid had supper laid on the table, and that everyone was waiting for his arrival. He shouted at Stella to go home and that he was not returning home, before he finished playing cards with his mates.

Before leaving, Joseph told Stella if she would like to come and see him in the coming days at his inn, so that they could chat and get to know each other better. Stella immediately fell in love with Joseph and a love story between the two soon ensued. Ninu was not at all happy when he learnt about this and forbade the two from speaking to each other again. Unfortunately, they did not pay attention to his words, and this brought a catastrophe...

One morning, exactly on the 6th December 1907, as Joseph was opening his inn, preparing for a day's work, Ninu rushed towards him and struck him 14 times with a dagger in his chest. When the magistrate heard the case,

Ninu's verdict was that he was to be hanged. His burial took place a few hours after his death and many are of the belief that he was buried alive.

Legend has it that Ninu's spirit still haunts the Prison Cemetery as a lady relates the story when she went to place some oil so as to light a lantern on his tomb, and found the cemetery to be closed. No sooner had she turned around to start walking home, a man called her and asked if she needed anything. The lady told the man that she wanted to place some oil in a lantern to light Ninu's tomb. The man offered that he would do this himself and took the oil from the lady's hands and thanked her heartily.

When the lady related the story to two guards who were there in the following days, she was shown a photo and asked if she recognized the man in the picture. She did not hesitate to utter that the man in the photo was the same man who had taken the oil and offered to place it on Ninu's grave. The guards then gave her the shocking news, that the man was no-one else except Ninu Xkora himself!



A Maltese community has existed in Gibraltar since shortly after its capture by an Anglo-Dutch fleet in 1704. Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus were the three stepping stones whereby Great Britain controlled the Mediterranean and the vital route to the Suez Canal and thence to India. Following the capture of Gibraltar, most of the existing population elected to leave, leaving behind a

small population of around seventy (mainly neutral Genoese people). Immigration from neighbouring Spanish towns soon followed, giving Gibraltar a very cosmopolitan population. Years of coexistence and intermarriage on the Rock soon led to a coalescence of Maltese, Italian and Andalusian culture, preserving the Mediterranean and Catholic uniqueness of Gibraltar despite the centuries of British rule.

Gibraltar prospered by the arrival of 19th century trade with North Africa and the presence of the Royal Navy; this prosperity attracted immigrants from neighbouring Mediterranean lands and in 1885 there were about 1,000 Maltese people living in Gibraltar. Early in the 20th century the British undertook vast naval works and improvements to the existing fortifications of Gibraltar to make the rock practically impregnable; the naval base in Gibraltar was to prove its strategic value in the two world wars. It was only to be expected that, given the common cultural bond between Malta and Gibraltar, some Maltese would be lured by the prospect of lucrative employment there.

Maltese in Gibraltar - By 1912 the total number of Maltese living in Gibraltar was not above 700. Many worked in the dockyard and others operated businesses which were usually ancillary to the dockyard. However, the economy of Gibraltar was not capable of absorbing a large number of immigrants from Malta and by 1912 the number of Maltese was already in decline as they returned to the Maltese Islands. Eventually those who stayed in Gibraltar became very much involved in the economic and social life in Gibraltar, most of them also being staunch supporters of links with the UK; the situation in Malta was very different, where, despite an earlier attempt at integration with the UK, rising nationalist sentiment led to independence in 1964 and the establishment of a republic a decade later.

Notable Gibraltarians of Maltese descent

Keith Azopardi QC, leader of the Gibraltar Social Democrats and former leader of the Progressive Democratic Party.

Davina Barbara, TV presenter of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Charles Caruana CBE, former Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gibraltar.

Peter Caruana QC, former Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

Georgina Cassar, rhythmic gymnast and 2012 Olympian for Team GB.

Gerard Teuma, Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation.

Maurice Xiberras, Politician, deputy leader of the Integration With Britain Party, deputy Chief Minister 1969-1972, Leader of the Opposition 1972-1979

Mgr. Carmelo Zammit, current bishop of Gibraltar



STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON IMMIGRATION

Corrine Zahra

I am not originally from Malta; I am from New York where I was born and raised. My parents are both Maltese. My family and I moved to Malta when I was nine years old. I am a proud citizen of the United States of America. I am a citizen of the United States of America because my parents immigrated to the United States and made me who I am, thus I am forever indebted to my parents. Immigration is a subject I like to discuss.

When I was eight years old, my mother took my sister and me to Ellis Island. Ellis Island is where all of the immigrants were taken to before entering the United States in the late nineteenth century and half of the twentieth century. The immigrants would be petrified that they would be rejected at Ellis Island and would be sent back to their country. Millions of people immigrated to the United States since the United States was the country of hope and freedom.

Today, my country is practically built of people who settled there and made the United States their home in which later generations made it their home too.

Immigration still happens today however things are not as easy.

Immigration has become a touchy subject nowadays. Most people leave their country nowadays only to seek security. Millions of people have left their homes and family members to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach safety. It is ironic that these people are then shunned, discriminated and treated horribly. Xenophobia still exists unfortunately. Due to the large masses of people entering Europe these past few years, people have come to consider them a threat

and feel violated. However, it is incredibly progressive that many youths are becoming more accepting and tolerant towards these people. Due to educative methods, young people are less unaccepting towards these people. In the following years when my generation becomes the generation which leads this world, I believe that society will become more open-minded and tolerable. Maybe it will be my generation that will stop the conflict and hatred however having history as a subject at school has taught me that war is extremely hard to get rid of.

In Malta, many immigrants have been arriving on our small island seeking refuge.

Many Maltese are accepting and many organizations do their best to help these people however the Maltese feel a great threat. Since these immigrants are not Catholic, the Maltese feel a threat to their religion which is a major part of Maltese culture and life. Since most people of the older generation have never experienced living amongst these people, prejudice occurs.

Moreover, as a seventeen-year-old who is still growing and will someday face the world on her own, I must come to terms with the fact that there are people who suffer unfortunately due to what has been implemented in the minds of others and such things are poisonous. Why should innocent people suffer? That is the question I ask and the question you should ask too. The answer is complicated and unfair. Then, together you, young people, and I must unite to solve the problem and the solution is quite reasonable and that, my friend, is the way we help these people.

Europe Begins in Lampedusa Project 2017



MALTESE PIONEER IN ILLAWARRA

New South wales

JOE CASSAR 1905-1995

Joe Cassar was born in Malta Qormi, and the understanding that he was the first Maltese pioneer to arrive in the Illawarra.

As a baby Joe was unwell and a priest living at home with two sisters whom never married asked his mum to raise him in their home.

In 1924 Joe migrated to Australia on an Italian ship, peeling potatoes to help paying his way. The sisters that looked after him packed him a suitcase with clothes and a 10pound note.

Upon arriving in Sydney he went to meet up Lithgow with his future wife Mary, father and brother and started working at Lithgow Works, when he married Mary Vella. He decided to come and work at Port Kembla steel works. He travelled with a friend with a horse and cart all the way from Lithgow, stopping for sleeping under the cart. The journey took 3 days and lived on killing wild rabbits, cooking them with garlic and tomatoes.

Joe Cassar was already married with one child



and not long after arriving in Port Kembla his wife had their second child. Joe and Mary had seven siblings. Joe loved shooting for rabbits and later on he grow rabbits domestically to sell to other Maltese for some pocket money.

Joe made steel plates for the Sydney Harbour bridge and broke records for producing most plates.

Joe would travel every day from Conniston to work, passing though swamps with his horse and cart.

Joe and Mary on their wedding day

Joe worked at Port Kembla until 1942 when the Japanese came into t war. He was running a fruit and vegetable garden, when his customers signed a petition for him to leave the Steel Works. William Charles

Wentworth asked him to open a fruit shop. Joe also open a fish and chips shop in a boat shed in Shellharbour and used to sell also hot water to the customers.

When the bishop of Wollongong decided to open another parish in Warrawong near Wollongong, he asked the help of the Franciscan priests from Malta and Father Bonello was appointed the first parish priest. The priest had no one to stay and for 3 months Joe and his wife supported him and provided him with accommodation.

William Charles Wentworth used to hire the old hall to the church used for all occasions including weddings and later sold it to the church. Mary Vella with others volunteers would raise money for the church. Joe became a Justice of the peace and often supported Maltese arriving in the area to buy their first house. Joe Cassar lived a good life with his relatives and friends and passed away in 1995 surrounded by his family.



Mackay Maltese Club



NEWS FROM MACKAY QUEENSLAND

We started the year with a bus trip to **Pinnacle**, to **The Church Restaurant** to a 3-course meal with a difference, being, a display on how to pour your wines, very entertaining.

We have been trying to incorporate a couple of different outings; we had another bus trip to **Airlie Beach** with morning tea at The Coffee Plantation. Then on to **Northerlies Resort** for lunch, and what a beautiful lunch we had.

We also have had a lunch at the **Metropolitan Hotel**, and a luncheon at **West's Leagues Club**, which incorporated a Cent Sale and a Raffle. All had an enjoyable afternoon.

We also had our Maltese Youth – **Jacob and Emma Said** attend the laying of the wreath for our fallen Anzacs on behalf of The Mackay Maltese Club. They were very proud to be involved in the ceremony.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Secretary** – Veronica Gauci, **Treasurer** – Janis Vella, and our **Vice President** – Maree Bezzina.

Thank you to our Patrons – Sister Octavia and Sister Carmen, also to the committee who have helped throughout the year.

Thank you to our supporters for our raffles, and all committee who kindly donated prizes to our raffles. Below is a list of our Events for 2019:

Sunday 11 August	Seniors Afternoon	Tea Botanic Gardens	1.30 pm
Friday 6 August	Festa Mass	Francis of Assisi Home	7.00 pm
7 September	Festa Dinner	North Mackay Bowls Club	7.00 pm
Saturday 2 November	Bus Trip	Earland – Proserpine	
Thank you - Rose Borg - President			

MACKAY MALTESE YOUTH (QUEENSLAND)



From Left: Maree Bezzina (Vice President), Jacob Said, Emma Said, Rose Borg (President)

Jacob and Emma Said were honored to represent The Mackay Maltese Club on Anzac Day 2019 in laying a wreath in respect of the men and women who lost their lives, to make our home a better place. Jacob and Emma Said are descendants of the Maltese men who served in World War I and World War II.

Great Great Grandparent: **World War I** - John Galea (Tal – Qendli) volunteered for service in the Royal British Navy in 1918. He was awarded the Victory Medal in 1922 for his service. Each Anzac Day, he would proudly march wearing his service medals.

Great Grandparents: Joseph and Maria (Zerafa) Said | John and Fillipa (Cortis) Zammit – John Zammit enlisted in the British Army of **World War II** - He looked after the British General and the Army who resided in Malta, as he could speak English.

Tony and Vera (Muscat) Galea | Jack and Dorothy (McKnight) Baulch

Grandparents: Nicholas and Joan (Zammit) Said | David and Heather (Baulch) Galea

Parents: Leonard and Maria Said

Children: Jacob and Emma



“God gave me the talent of folk-singing, l-ghana”

Glen Falzon

A four-year old boy from Fgura is successfully following his father's talent of Maltese folk-singing, known as *ghana spirtu pront*. Lydon Agius told TVM that God gave him this talent of folk-singing and he is thrilled when he joins well-known *ghannejja*. TVM watched a Lydon's folk-singing session at a Żabbar bar.

At first sight, one thinks that Lydon is reading....however this four year old boy is at his best in the *spirtu pront* folk-singing. Lydon has been folk-singing for the past year and he does not intend to stop.

His competitor of the day was Jimmy Pawney, a veteran of this traditional folklore which is waning in popularity. Whilst listening to his son singing, Joe Agius is convinced that Lydon will be a first-class folk singer. “I don't see otherwise; it is a nice hobby. Of course, I want him to succeed”.



Maltese folklore “ghana”?

Ruth Amaira

Music and melodies are constant accompaniments of mankind and virtually every country has its own traditional folklore music – Malta no less. Over and above this traditional folklore music known as “ghana” Malta has also reflected period music reflecting different eras.

The Maltese “ghana” has different forms and probably knows its origins from Spanish tradition and its ties with nearby Sicily. The folklore researcher and specialist Ġużè Cassar Pullicino found the early form of “ghana” dating back to 1792 during the final stages of the Knights in Malta. At the beginning of the last Century, the German diplomat Bertha Ilg, who lived in Malta for many years, collected and documented over 200 popular songs of the period.

Musician and researcher Andrew Alamango said that during the first 30 years of the last Century there were various forms of music including folklore, using mandolins, orchestras, sacred music and popular music compositions by Maltese musicians.

Alamango said the “ghana” is important and remains important because of its vocal traditions, consisting of the skills of impromptu coupling of rhythmic phrases set to music. It is a basis of the Maltese language that is set to music that is typical of the countries of the Mediterranean region.

Charles Coleiro, another well-known Maltese folklore specialist, said it is important this musical form remains alive and active.

He said he would like to hear more of it during the traditional folklore event Imnarja which is being increasingly dominated by more popular music forms. Coleiro said that “ghana” should have its own special and prominent niche. Coleiro said it is still popular among youths and played in village bars and coffee shops.

Maltese “għana” singers known as “għannejja”, from the past, have remained remembered and are still popular and Żebbug in Malta gives special mention to Manwel Cilia who died 51 years ago but his talent and style remains popular today. Luckily his compositions are still available and have been collected by Andrew Alamango and recorded.

Maltese humour

‘Laughter is the best medicine... unless you’re asthmatic – then it’s Ventolin’

Humour or humor: anyway you spell it; it’s about the funny stuff! Jokes, limericks, one-liners with a Maltese or Gozitan slant have become familiar over time with the likes of **Fra Mudest, Gaħan, Wenzu u Rozi** that have become amongst the most popular icons in Maltese wit and humour. The Manoel Theatre opened in 1732 to a season of French classics. Today, it offers a full calendar ranging from comedy to classics, in both English and Maltese, and by both local and international actors and performers.

Pietro Paolo Castagna wrote two popular plays **L-ahhar tas Sena** (1850) (The end of the year) and **Il Cungres tas Sefturi** (1859) (The Servant’s Congress). During the 1850s, P. P. Castagna founded a dramatic company named ‘Il-Campagna Filodrammatica Vittoriosa’ whose members were mostly students. The actors that emerged from this company were to be amongst the leading actors of the period.

Pietro Paolo Castagna (1827-1907) was a playwright, educationist, dramatist and histoRIAN and he dedicated a signed self-portrait in pencil to his ‘Dear philodramatist friend, Pietro Paolo Ellul’. He was a prominent figure and author of a history book on Malta **Lis Storja ta Malta bil gzejer tahha**, (The History of Malta and its Islands).

The satirical play **Il Cungres tas Sefturi** sheds light on the social and class divisions that characterised Maltese Society and in doing so P. P. Castagna reveals his sympathy towards the lowest working classes of Maltese society. The play is a manifestation of the inherent ambition of the servants to assert themselves by using all possible means to protest vis-a-vis their masters whether he/she are descended from a noble family, marquis or some other ‘higher order’. The story has a twist in that at the end of the day the rich and wealthy assert their vested interest and the only concession that the servants are allowed is a yearly sumptuous meal. The efforts of the maids are rendered futile in attempting to turn the tables in their favour.

L Ahhar tas Sena is analogous in content in that it describes how a wealthy baron is caught red-handed in fraudulent activity but his power, influence and contacts help him to get away scot-free.

The late Charles Clews was a protagonist of stand-up comedy in Malta and formed part of The Stage Commandos, a group with a repertoire of sketches, plays and musicals. In 1996 he was awarded the Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika. He always insisted that his words and nuances were “clean” and was proud of it, punchlining with tonality, body language and timing as opposed to coarseness and double entendre. Charles Clews (when a shipyard employee) during the Second World War formed a theatrical group to entertain the workers and keep morale up. After the war, the group went outside the yard and The Stage Commandos became hugely popular and successful, filling the village halls to capacity almost every weekend. Many names that are still icons of Maltese Teatrin are Guza Caruana, Johnny Catania, Freddy Underwood, Nossie Ghirlando, Dante Gatt and others. Many a time these performed at the old Radio City.

A list of satirical/comical newspapers was provided to me by Mr Noel Fenech, son of the late Mr Alfred Fenech and former President of the Malta Hobbies Society with the oldest newspaper in the list being Don Chisciotte (1892). The following list, by no means exhaustive shows in chronological order some of the most popular satirical newspapers throughout Maltese history:

Children had their own joke-packed magazine – Le Avventure di Giahān- Don Chisciotte Foglietto Uморistico, Sabato 3 Settembre 1892
 - **Giahān, 1906, - In-Nahla Folju Politicu u Varju, 1909; Il-Hmar L-euuel Sena, 1917. - Il Hmara It-Tielet Sena, 1930. Doctor Brombos, 1938. - Ic-Cajtier Folju Uморistiku Indipendenti, Marzu 1949. Il-Gannett Folju Uморistku Pulitku u Varju, No. 102, 25 ta Gunju 1 Il-Jocker Folju Uморistiku ta’ kull Hmistax, l-ewwel sena , 1959. In-Niggieza 1970s. Ix-Xewka 1970s.**

Jekk Joghgobkom

IMQARET FIL-FORN BAKED DATE FILLED PASTRIES

Makes about 20
 450g tart pastry
 For the filling:-
 400g dates, stoned and chopped, or 2 packets
 of stoned pressed dates
 Grated rind of 1 orange
 Grated rind of 1 tangerine
 Pinch of mixed spice or ground cloves
 1 to 2 tbsps orange flower water
 Honey and hundreds and thousands to decorate



Put the dates in a small saucepan, add ½ a cup of water and stir over a low flame until they soften. Remove from the heat, cool and add the orange flower water, the spices and the grated rinds. Roll out the pastry into strips 40 x 12cm.

Spoon the cold filling shaped like a sausage onto the centre of the pastry, leaving a border on each side. Dampen the border with a wet brush and overlap over the filling. Turn over so that the edges of the pastry will be underneath. Cut into diagonal shapes about 6cm long. Place on a lined baking tray and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Bake in a preheated oven at 180°C-- Gas 4 for 15 minutes, then lower the heat and bake for another 8 minutes until they turn golden.

Remove from the oven, cool, place on a serving dish, drizzle with honey and sprinkle with coloured hundreds and thousands.

Treacle Ring – Qaghaq tal-Ghasel

Treacle rings are traditionally a Maltese holiday treat, but they're often eaten year-round..

Yield: serves 12

FOR THE PASTRY:

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¾ cup shortening
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

FOR THE FILLING:

- 1 cup black treacle or dark molasses
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 tsp. unsweetened cocoa
- 1 tbsp. anisette liqueur
- Zest of 1 orange, grated
- Zest of 1 lemon, grated
- 2 cups semolina
- Flour
- 1 egg, lightly beaten



Instructions

1. For the pastry, sift flour, sugar, and salt together in a medium bowl. Cut in shortening until mixture forms coarse crumbs. Mix in egg and sprinkle in 2-3 tbsp. ice water. Knead until dough just holds together. Divide dough into two balls and wrap in plastic wrap; refrigerate until chilled, about 1 hour.
2. For the filling: Mix treacle, sugar, cocoa, liqueur, and orange and lemon zests together in a medium saucepan. Bring mixture to a boil over medium heat. Gradually whisk in semolina, lower heat, and simmer until mixture is very thick, about 5-7 minutes. Pour into a bowl lined with plastic wrap; set aside to cool.
3. Preheat oven to 375°. Roll out pastry on a lightly floured work surface into two long strips, about 4" x 12". Place strips side by side on a baking sheet. Form mixture into two 2" x 12" "sausages". Lay filling in the center of pastry strips, pinch pastry closed leaving 1" gaps. Then pinch ends together to form a ring. Brush with egg wash and bake for 30-40 minutes, until golden brown.



15-year-old athlete trains in Cyprus

Melvic Zammit

Gaida Scicluna, a student from the National School for Sport, was among Maltese students who benefitted from an EU Funded programme for sport training education overseas.

The 15-year-old student was among 5,500 students to this year benefit from the Erasmus+ programme valued at €9 million. She was also one of the 13 students from the School that spent a week in Cyprus to participate in a programme to promote interest in students to also perform as athletes outside their country.

Gaida said the opportunity was one to integrate with fellow students from Cyprus and Finland. She said she participated in many team-building games, including one of being taken on a mountain, given a map and a compass and told to plan their route. She attended a school and after school visited places of interest to obtain culture familiarisation. This included participating in cooking, the washing of plates and everything connected with the residence they were in.

Gaida, a sprinter over 100 and 200 metre distances said the experience will help her in her overseas sport participating.

She said that if in future she has to go overseas to study or to participate in sport she is now fully prepared after being a taste of what she may experience. Despite a language barrier, she was still able to communicate. a ceremony to distribute certificates, the Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds, Aaron Farrugia, said the National School for Sport is one of 73 different entities that have this year benefitted from a fund of €9 million between them. He said that over 5,500 people – including students, teachers and workers who train and work with youths are to benefit from Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. Dr Farrugia said in the coming year the EU Commission is to double the Erasmus + budget.





Photo: Maria Kerr

Reviving the ancient art of ganutell

It had almost been lost to the mist of time but this uniquely Maltese art form is now back and enjoying a colourful revival.

The art of making artificial flowers dates back centuries, however Ganutell was solely derived here in Malta, being adapted from making flowers from materials such as paper, shells, beads and cloth with initial skills brought to Malta from mainland Europe, predominantly Italy.

Deriving from the Italian word 'canutiglia' meaning tinsel, Ganutell, the intricate art of using fine wires, thread and beads to form ornate flower and leaf decoration, dates to, as far as records show, the 17th century. 'The Tree of Life' a Ganutell piece of artwork held in a private house in Rabat has a small piece of music manuscript, rolled up to form a base for part of the wound wire, is from the 1600's.

Originally Ganutell was made in monasteries, with few monks and nuns mastering the art leading to having their work commissioned by the Knights of St John to produce decorative pieces to be mounted and encased in glass before being sent to Rome as gifts for the Pope. Mastering the art, they used gold and silver wires, silk thread and glass beads to further produce works for churches around the island. Because of their intricateness and the time and costs involved churches began to share the pieces giving parishioners from all over the island the opportunity to enjoy their beauty.

Skills were passed down through generations but World War2 took its toll on the art. Unfortunately, many pieces were destroyed and the correct equipment and materials became hard to find and expensive to buy. Traditional Ganutell had all but died out. Still practised by older generations, those who did create pieces started to use cheaper, easier to come by materials to keep the art form alive in some form. Inferior wires and threads alongside the likes of pipe cleaners began to make up less ornate pieces and it was discovered that hand held battery operated fans were a temporary substitute for entwining threads rather than the properly weighted wooden bobbins used pre-war.

As the archipelago began to recover from the devastation caused during the war, Ganutell began to make a steady revival, with groups of older ladies who would meet in the local villages to continue to

produce work for their parish church. By the late 1990s Ganutell was back and becoming more and more popular. Delicate flowers were, and still are, formed into headdresses for weddings, Ganutell earrings and brooches a unique accessory to outfits and Holy Communion dresses have the work embroidered onto them to stand out from the rest. Today, Ganutell making is still on the increase. One such lady helping with this is **Maria Kerr**. Her pieces are renowned across the island and in addition to having a book published, Maria holds lessons at her home attracting students from as far afield as Japan and the USA. Maria has even had a piece commissioned for a catwalk show by fashion house Comme des Garçons.

Part time courses can be studied at the **Malta College of Arts** and at **Lifelong Learning** sessions run by the Maltese Government at various locations successfully striving to keep this 300-year-old beautiful Maltese tradition alive.



MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC.

14 Watt Street , Sunshine Victoria Australia

MCCV qed jilqa' applikazzjonijiet għall-pożizzjoni ta' għalliem/a part-time tal-lingwa Maltija, fil-binja tagħhom f'14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

Applikanti għandhom ikollhom għarfien sewwa tal-Malti kemm miktub u mitkellem.

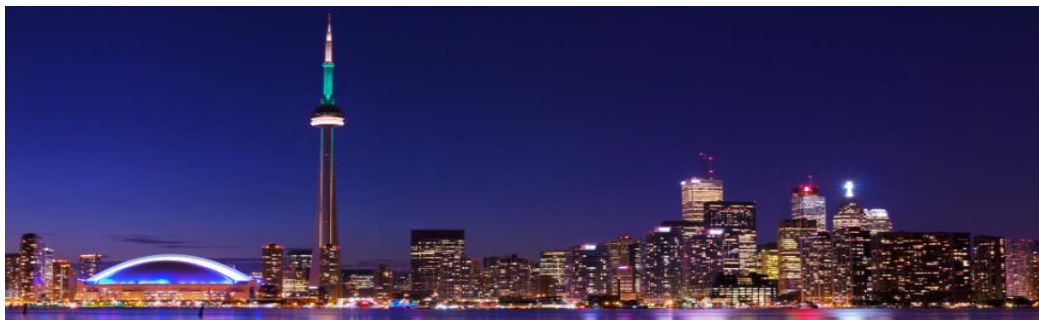
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Dr. Raymond Xerri
Consul-General



VISIT THE WEBPAGE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA IN CANADA

Visit the webpage of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta in the Commonwealth of Canada. This webpage exists specifically to inform and be of service to the thousands of Maltese citizens and Maltese-Canadians alike.

Over the past century, many Maltese have settled in Canada and today Canada is their adopted country and the birth country of subsequent Maltese generations. Malta and Canada enjoy excellent bilateral relations, primarily because in Canada, the Maltese Islands have the second largest diaspora community in the world.

The webpage of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta, which is based in Toronto, provides information on consular services offered to you, the Maltese, their families and friends throughout Canada, to facilitate the wishes in relations to the Maltese Islands.

Whether you would like to visit, live, get married, study, work, retire, search your family history, buy property, invest or start a business in Malta, the Consulate General is here to help you!

https://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Embassies/Cg_Toronto/Pages/CG_Toronto.aspx



Mgr. Carmel Zammit **the Bishop of Gibraltar**

Bishop Zammit was born in Gudja, south Malta, in 1949 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1974. In 1976, along with other young Maltese priests he was invited, by Bishop Rapallo, to minister in Gibraltar.

He served the Diocese in a number of different capacities from 1976 to 1998. He taught and served as Chaplain to both Boys and Girls Comprehensive Schools. He served as Parish Priest in two of the parishes in Gibraltar, St Theresa's from 1985 to 1991 and Sacred Heart Parish

from 1991 to 1998.

He was also Chaplain to a number of different organisations in the Diocese; as Bishop's delegate on the Religious Education Board for Government Schools, and as a member of the Prison Board and Prison Chaplain.

In 1998, he returned to his native Malta, where he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Malta and served the Archdiocese in a number of key roles until his appointment as Bishop of Gibraltar. After his return to Malta, Bishop Zammit continued to be a frequent visitor to the Rock and kept close contact with the Priests and people of Gibraltar. He was ordained Bishop of Gibraltar on 8 September 2016



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Contact:

Malta High Commission ACT
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or Frank Scicluna
SA Hon Consul
on 0422 438 288



*We are not in competition with no one.
We run our own race. We have no desire
to play the game of being better than
anyone. We just aim to improve, to be better
than we were before. That's us*

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It is a privilege for me to
receive and read this great
journal of the Maltese living
abroad. LB Ebejer



Three men at work restoring and painting a traditional wooden balcony in Sliema
 . Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

FRANCESCO ZAHRA

(1710-1773)

and St George's Basilica in Victoria, Gozo:
 Art and Conservation



10 August – 11 September 2019
 Il-Haġar - Heart of Gozo Museum

The Mackay Maltese Club invites you to
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
FESTA MASS & NIBBLES
 Friday 6th September - 7:00pm
 Francis of Assisi Home
 2 Dupuy Street, Mackay
Please bring a Plate of Food

FESTA DINNER & CELEBRATION
 Saturday 7th September - 7:00pm
 North Mackay Bowls Club
 74-76 Malcomson St, North Mackay
Buffet Dinner - \$45 per person
Major Raffle, Lucky Door, Live Music
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Rose Borg: 0418 788 363
Money to be paid by Friday 30th August