



Maltese e-Newsletter

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



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ANJELICA SCANNURA

flamenco and
belly dancer
Ontario
Canada



MARIKA GALEA
Rising Young Star
Canada



The beauty
of nature



**WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR
MALTESE ACHIEVERS**

DR. VICTOR BORG AM

In order to keep alive the memory
of the late Dr. Victor Borg
the main hall at the
Maltese Centre in Parkville
has now been named
"Victor G Borg Hall"

COVID-19: Valletta, Malta's Capital City, A Ghost Town



Valletta, the capital city of Malta and one of the island's most popular tourists' destinations, day and night, an exciting hub for business and fun alike, was anything but that last night.

Malta's capital city was a ghost town and that is because of the we have coronavirus fear.

Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

One day after tightening measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus saw the closure of schools, universities and day-care centres, several of Malta's streets and landmarks have been left deserted as the majority of the public heeds the government's warnings to stay home.

As visits to old people's homes and prisons were stopped and scores of public events and gatherings cancelled over the past few days, open spaces on Friday morning showed a dearth of people out and about.

Tourists were conspicuously absent from prime tourist spots. There were no crowds in Republic Street in Valletta, while the Upper Barrakka Gardens were barren. Thousands are believed to have



transferred their office work home.

On the contrary, crowds were seen flocking to supermarkets as people flocked to stock up on essentials. Long queues continued to be reported at supermarket cashiers with panic buying the order of the day at several outlets.

"The main squares usually bustling with people seemed eerily silent but beautiful and sad simultaneously.

Parliament, Castille, the bus stations and even Republic Street remained quiet, so much so that you could probably hear a pin drop. The photos remind us of a scene out of a post-apocalyptic movie and we're absolutely mesmerised by them.

COVID-19 may have kept the rest of the country indoors but the virus didn't stop this photographer from braving the streets to capture some breathtaking views of Malta's new ghost town.



I am not sure how many of you are aware of the distance between one province and another in Canada. The distance between Ontario and British Columbia is over 3000 miles, and 5 hour flight one way. So when we refer to "Canada" we must keep that distance in mind. The province of Ontario has the highest number of Maltese living there. They have clubs and even Catholic Churches with Maltese priests. In B.C. we have nothing like that. However, we have many Maltese people who have successfully established a good life for themselves and their families. What is missing, especially for the younger generation, are opportunities for connecting to their

Maltese culture. We rely on the young generation to carry on our traditions and culture. *Susan Schembri Conv 2015*

A LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

AMBASSADOR VANESSA FRAZIER



Addressed to the Maltese Community in New York-New Jersey-Connecticut
"In view of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as declared by U.S. President Trump and New York Governor Cuomo as a state of emergency, the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations and the Consulate of Malta in New York will be limiting access to the general public. This measure is being taken in order to protect the health and safety of our staff whilst ensuring that business continues.

Despite the limited access, the Mission and the Consulate remain ready to assist Maltese nationals residing or travelling within the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. For any urgent assistance or queries, members of the Maltese Community can reach the Foreign Ministry's 24hr helpline on +356 2204 2200 or the Consulate on +1 212-725-2345 consul.newyork@gov.mt. As a precautionary measure to contain the pandemic, consular appointments that have already been fixed are postponed. We invite those that have had fixed appointments to contact the Consulate on consul.newyork@gov.mt or call on +1 212-725-2345.

On this note, we augur that the Maltese Community is safe and healthy."



Dr Clare Gerada describes how she felt when she became infected with the Coronavirus

Dr Clare Gerada, a British doctor of Maltese descent, has spoken to the media about her experiences after she was infected by the Coronavirus a few days after returning to London from the US.

Dr Gerada, who is 60, is a well-known doctor and was even the Chairperson of the Royal College of General

Practitioners.

She said that many people were curious about the symptoms because they do not anyone who had caught it, and therefore she decided to share her experience with the media.

She explained that three days after arriving from New York she began to feel very tired, and after one day she got a tickle in her throat. but did not pay much attention. But then when her throat started hurting her a lot and she developed a fever, she realised she had Covid-19.

She said that what she started feeling felt nothing like a normal cold, and that when she had come down with the flu she was only sick for an afternoon. However, in this case, she spent two days not eating and was forced to be in bed for several days because all she felt like doing was sleep.

Luckily today, however, she has completely recovered and she says that she has remained in quarantine for a few more days so that she will definitely not be contagious to anyone else.

Maltese Living Abroad



The Maltese communities living abroad should continue to strive to attract the younger generations to come and join so that the Maltese culture, heritage and traditions will be sustained and are passed on to future generations. Around the world the younger generation is showing a lot of interest in participating in the various organizations that make up the Maltese community. Is it possible for the CMLA to form a registry or directory with all the contact information of all the Maltese organizations around the world and make it available to, via this media or on

facebook? This would be a useful resource for contacting one another and exchange ideas and information so that we may always grow in our knowledge and pride of our beloved motherland, Malta.

Australia, Canada, UK, USA and New Zealand form the largest section of the Maltese Diaspora in the global village. We have an enduring bond that has lived for many centuries and mass migration. Presently, however, Maltese youth are experiencing an unprecedented dislocation from their language and rich heritage. While we acknowledge and deeply appreciate the contribution of the pioneers in many areas in maintaining Maltese culture overseas. We also recognise that some of these approaches are outdated, stifling the voice of our second and third generations Maltese.

We feel that there is one cultural aspect of our Maltese identity namely to work together towards keeping alive the Maltese history, language and culture for many generations to come in many parts of the world.

We recommend a better promotion of study exchange programs between Australian and overseas universities and tertiary institutions, and the potential benefits and opportunities, availability of online courses for the Maltese language, such as the University of Malta's 'Survival Maltese' and creating virtual classrooms for students in living abroad, e.g. video conferencing with a Maltese language lecturer in Malta to teach a class of 8-10 students each week for a duration of 10-12 weeks biannually. This could bolster the numbers for secondary high school certificate study of the Maltese language, and also create an interactive and effective learning space for adult learners. A possible venue for such delivery in Australia could be the various Maltese community centres that has resources available to facilitate such learning.

We should look forward, and work on a new concept – regarding the Maltese communities living abroad, not as emigrants, but as communities living in a particular country with ties to their country of origin, Malta. This applies more also to the upcoming generation."

The diaspora should be treated as an extended market when creating Maltese culture and language learning digital content. Mobile apps, social media, and video-sharing websites, should be the preferred channels to keep alive the emotional bond between the members of the diaspora communities and their mother country.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora

Lets be positive and look for a brighter future



There are Maltese in over 150 countries
worldwide

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN US
AND STAY CONNECTED

Easter Traditions in Malta

Easter time, in our opinion, is one of the most spectacular times to visit Malta. It is a time steeped in tradition and ritual. It is a time of processions, pilgrimages, bell ringing, pageants and more. In fact, most towns and villages stage some event to mark Holy Week. Some villages have dedicated drama groups founded solely to produce such events during Holy Week. Most of the Maltese population are devout Roman Catholics and the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter are primarily of a religious character. However even if you are not a religious person or a non-believer, most of the Maltese traditions, which take place during the Easter period, are interesting to participate in or to just watch. The preparations for Holy Week in Malta commence, 40 days before Easter, this time of the year, in the Western Christian calendar is known as Lent. It is traditionally a time for reflection and repentance.

Holy Week - This year, Holy Week will start on the Sunday, March 20, and Easter Sunday will be celebrated on the 27th March. Holy Week starts with **Palm Sunday** and ends with **Easter Sunday**. Included within Holy Week are the religious festivals of **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday** and **Holy Saturday**.

During Holy Week, Christians commemorate the Passion of Christ, who died on Good Friday to atone for the sins of mankind, and rose on Easter Sunday to give new life to all who believe.

Holy Week in Malta is celebrated by many religious events. Here are the most popular ones:

Palm Sunday - **Palm Sunday** is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. All the parishes in Malta celebrate this occasion. In churches across Malta and Gozo, palm leaves and olive branches are blessed with Holy Water. The faithful walk in a procession waving these blessed branches. Blessed Palm trees tied into crosses or small branches of olive leaves are given to the faithful as a blessing.



Maundy Thursday - On **Maundy Thursday**, the eve of Good Friday, Maltese families come together to reflect on this solemn occasion. They visit the numerous Last Supper exhibitions held in many localities and combine this with the Seven visits. These sort of exhibitions are definitely worth a visit if you are visiting Malta during Holy Week. They range from model representations of the Holy Supper to more elaborate rice and pasta 'paintings'. Traditionally, the food used in these displays is distributed among the needy of the parish. They take many months to produce and require a lot of work and dedication. They are usually created by volunteers.

During Maundy Thursday, a mass service where the priest, representing Jesus Christ, symbolically washes the feet of twelve people, representing the twelve apostles, is held.

After this mass most Maltese families gather together to do the, **Seba Visti- the Seven Visits**.

Seven different churches are visited and special prayers are said in each. This ancient tradition is extremely popular and it is said to date back to the Romans. Although these prayers can be said until noon on Good Friday most locals perform this ritual on Maundy Thursday evening, usually combining the Seven Visits with an exhibition or two.

Should you be interested in experiencing this event, we would recommend you visit [Valletta](#) on Maundy Thursday evening. Another popular event is the procession held at Girgenti. A torch lit procession starts from the village square of Siggiewi in the early evening. Pilgrims walk up Girgenti Hill until they reach the summit at Laferla Cross.

As with most traditions, Maundy Thursday has a traditional food associated with it.

Good Friday - **Good Friday** is a day of mourning. No church bells are rung. No mass is held though some go to church to kiss the cross at the time Christ died, at around 3pm and to say personal prayers.



On Good Friday spectacular solemn religious processions and pageants are held in numerous villages and towns. These are a combination of statues and local actors. Each of these statues represents a particular episode in the Passion of the Christ and is carried by approximately 6 to 8 bearers. It is regarded as a great honour to be a bearer amongst most locals. Between statues, locals, ranging from the very young to the old, dressed as biblical characters take part in the procession in a dignified manner. Roman soldiers feature heavily in these processions and the total number of participants in these Good Friday re-enactments is in the hundreds. So there will be lots to see.

In some parts of Malta, these processions will include a number of penitents dressed in white robes and hoods; some bearing crosses, others walking barefoot, some with chains tied to their ankles. These are all acts of penance or in fulfilment of avow.

In our opinion, the most notable Good Friday processions are those of Mosta and Zebbug in Malta. The procession in Zebbug, is renowned for its extravagance and also makes use of horses. If you are in Gozo you might want to visit, the village of Xaghra.

Easter Sunday - On **Easter Sunday**, the atmosphere is completely different to that of Good Friday. Gone is the solemnity and the mood is one of celebration and joy. The churches are open, a special mass is celebrated and the bells are rung. Towns and villages celebrate the resurrection of Christ with lively band marches and a short procession with the statue of the Risen Christ. This procession usually starts after the morning mass at around 10.00am. In the harbour towns of Vittoriosa, Senglea and Cospicua, a group of men run uphill with the statue of the Risen Christ. The most notable spectacle is held in Vittoriosa, Birgu. After mass, it is a day the Maltese spend with their family. Lavish lunches are enjoyed and, as in much of Christian Europe, the giving of chocolate eggs and Figolli; Malta's special Easter cakes, is done.

Easter food - As with other celebrations, such as Christmas or Carnival, Easter in Malta is also strongly associated with delicious traditional food. There are many dishes such as broad beans soup ("kusksu"), Hot Cross buns and carob sweets ("karamelli tal-ħarob"). Below are ETI's staff top 3 traditional Easter food.



Kwarezimal

During Lent, many Maltese fast or perform some sort of sacrifice. Most tend to give up sweets and desserts for the duration of Lent. However Kwarezimal, Lenten biscuits, are allowed. These are delicious chewy, nutty, orange-flower flavoured local biscuits. If you are in Malta over Lent and Easter we would highly recommend tasting them.

Qaghaq tal-Appostoli

This is the traditional unleavened loaf of bread eaten after the Seven Visits on Maundy Thursday. It is a ring-shaped loaf of unleavened bread made with honey and garnished with almonds and sesame seeds.



Figolli

Figolli are the most popular traditional Easter food. They are baked at Easter and given to friends and family, especially children on Easter Sunday. Figolli are sweet almond Easter cakes covered in icing or chocolate and decorated with half a chocolate Easter egg in colourful foil on the top. They are usually in Christian traditional shapes such as fish but recently new forms have been added to the traditional shapes such as; cars, lambs and butterflies.



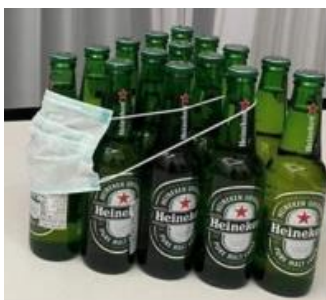
DESTINY DROPPED HER EUROVISION ENTRY

The wait is finally over. After weeks of trying to figure out what song Destiny will be representing us with in Rotterdam 2020, we have the answer ... and it is all we hoped for and more.

The bop and a half that Destiny will be representing us with is called "All of my Love", a mix of soul and rhythm that will have you tapping your feet and belting out the high notes (well, try to at least, because there are so many people that can reach those high notes like Destiny can.)

Written and produced by Symphonics, the song was recorded in Malta and Austria, whilst the music video was entirely shot and produced in the beautiful island of Malta.

And now the waiting game begins. Will we go higher up in the odds? Will we pass through to the semi-finals? I think we've got a safe passage to the finals. And the real question ... have we actually got a chance to win this year??? We can't wait. Well done to Destiny and her team for a smashing song! All of Malta is behind you.



A free facemask with a dozen beer



An orange a day.....



Taiwanese masks send to China



Half a bra does the job

Here's something to lighten up our readers hearts
in this gloomy atmosphere!

Ron Borg



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STORY TO TELL, SHARE IT
WITH OTHERS**

Send it to us

A women's club on Facebook is becoming a real 'kazin tan-nisa'

Women for Women plan a social club in Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq



The board of directors of Women for Women, including Francesca Fenech Conti (front, third right).

A popular women's group on social media will be turning its virtual safe space into a real social club in Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq later this year, providing support on issues ranging from domestic violence to filling out a CV.

The pressing need for women to have a space in which they can connect to others and seek support became apparent to the founder of Facebook group [Women for Women](#), Francesca Fenech Conti, as its following grew steadily to

33,000 from its inception in 2015.

"Someone suggested this social club will be like a *kazin tan-nisa* (women's club) and it struck a chord, because men have always had the *kazin* and the space to meet and talk," said Ms Fenech Conti.

"Even though women were allowed to enter, it remained male-dominated. Women never really had a space like that."

Since the group became active on social media, it has helped women emerge from domestic violence situations, guided them regarding careers and loans, provided them with psychological support, and so much more, she continued.

In fact, Women for Women is in the process of becoming a foundation comprising a board of directors with different areas of expertise, who have also had to face their own challenges, from domestic violence to poverty and single parenthood.

Having a team from all walks of life is critical because the group receives at least 50 private messages a day, ranging from women asking for help to leave abusive relationships to legal issues, fertility treatment, parenting and others, said Ms Fenech Conti.

But Women for Women does not simply function virtually.

Behind the posts and messages offering advice and guidance, a complex network of women is active on the ground and helping each other in any way they can.

"Every day, behind the scenes, many small acts of kindness are happening. There's a whole network of social workers, friends, members, lawyers, accountants, psychologists all offering their services, products or vouchers for free to help women through difficult times."

The social club will not only provide a physical space to facilitate these connections but it will also function as a safe place where women suffering from domestic violence can seek support.

It will also host fundraising events, Ms Fenech Conti said.

Women can go there to seek help with their CVs and NGOs can use the club for meetings, she added.

While the group has been given the place rent-free for two years, they [launched a fundraiser](#) on Sunday to mark Women's Day.





Bishop Kelly blesses the foundation stone which had been shipped from Malta with (from left) Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP, Richard Curmi, Paul Borg, Joe Bartolo and Victor Borg proudly looking on.

1983



The Victorian Premier, Mr. John Cain officially opened the Maltese community's new Centre at Parkville on 20 November 1983. He unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion saying that he "was delighted to be associated with the opening of this very impressive new community centre."



The late Fr George Scerri seen addressing an MCCV Council Meeting with (from left) Victor Borg, George Saliba and Paul Borg looking on.



The former President of Malta, Agatha Barbara, receives a memento of her visit to Melbourne from the president of the Maltese Community Council, Victor Borg. 1986

MALTESE COMMUNITY CENTRE OF VICTORIA INC - 467-477 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052



An effort has been made In order to keep alive the memory of the late Dr. Victor Borg: the main hall at the Maltese Centre in Parkville has now been named **"VICTOR G BORG HALL"**, following representation at the MHA president to the MCCV Council. As you know, Victor was by far the person most responsible for building this magnificent centre to cater for the needs of Maltese in Victoria.

Born in Gzira, Malta, Borg's family immigrated to Australia in 1955 when he was aged 14. Educated at St Joseph's College, and the Lyceum College, Malta, and at the Marcelline and Taylors Colleges in Melbourne, he graduated Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from the University of Melbourne (1963), and was admitted to practice as Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria (1964). He pursued post-graduate studies in Law in London (1965-1966) and graduated as Master of Laws (LL.M) from the University of London, 1966.

His commitment to the community ensured him a number of honorary positions such as Honorary Consul for Republic of Malta; President of Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.; Chairperson, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria; Member of the Victorian Law Foundation; Member of Chief Justices Advisory Committee on Ethnic Issues (Family Court) and many more.



Anjelica Scannura

Anjelica Rose Scannura was born in Toronto, Ontario and is of Maltese and Irish ancestry. The vivacious beauty with green eyes began dancing at the age of four and has studied many forms of dance such as ballet, Irish dancing, flamenco and bellydance. Her determination, talent and persistence has led her to become an award-winning choreographer and she has travelled to Spain, Malta, Ireland, Jordan, the United States, Mexico and The Caribbean performing solo as well as with her family owned dance company Ritmo Flamenco. She has also won International dance competitions such as Bellydancer of the Universe and premiered work at the Madrid Choreographic Competition and performed with the Canadian Opera Company.

A graduate of the Etobicoke School of the Arts, Anjelica was thrown into stage productions and plays where she was able to gain experience in acting. Booking her first commercials at the age of 17 (Swiss Chalet & Scotiabank), she began serious studies in acting is constantly training with influential coaches such as Lewis Baumander, Bruce Clayton, Matthew Harrison, Shawn Lawrence, Catherine McNally, Al Bernstein among others. Anjelica loves the comedic and improvisational side of acting and is currently performing Stand-Up comedy in various clubs in Toronto and surrounding areas.

Anjelica has appeared on film, the small screen and music videos in a diverse range of styles. In "Camp Rock" (Disney) she acted opposite Joe Jonas, appeared on "Overruled" (Family Channel) and was assistant choreographer for "How to be Indie". She enjoyed working with Canadian director Reginald Harkema in her supporting role in the TIFF film

Manson, My Name is Evil alongside Sarah Gadon. She starred in the 2015 CBC movie "Flamenco" which won the So You Think You Can Pitch award at the ReelAsian Film Festival two years prior. She also recently appeared on "Satisfaction" (CTV), "Exhibitionists" (CBC), and "Rogue" (The Movie Network) alongside Cole Hauser.

CORONAVIRUS

Events in March cancelled Please note that all Heritage Malta events that were scheduled to take place this month are now cancelled. This also includes the Fort Delimara Open Day that was scheduled to take place this Sunday. For any assistance or information, please get in touch with us via email: info@heritagemalta.org

Il-Ħaġar closed Il-Ħaġar Museum is closed until further notice. We are committed towards the wellbeing of our Community, Volunteers and Patrons. All events and activity - including the Rooftop - are suspended. We hope to be back at the earliest. Stay safe and avoid risks. God Bless us all! The Il-Ħaġar Team

**ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH IN MALTA ARE CANCELLED
OR RE-SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF COVID-19 SPREAD**

Maltese Canadians News - MEMORIES "20 Years ago"

Richard Cumbo, Curator, Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives, Toronto

In 2000 the Royal Bank of Canada, one of Canada's largest banking institutions, organized a cultural diversity day at their head office at 315 Front Street West in downtown Toronto.

The lady in the "faldetta/ghonella" Joanne Bugeya a bank employee and M.C.S.T. member had asked the executive of the old Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (M.C.S.T.) for assistance in organizing the exhibit. During the day long event hundreds viewed the rich culture of Malta, learned about the "Junction" Maltese community and sampled Maltese cuisine donated by Julius and Angela Zammit of "Malta's Finest Pastries".



In the photo at the back is M.C.S.T.'s Richard Cumbo in his Knight of Malta cape, next to him is the Society Miss Malta of Canada-2000 Natalie Stewart, and Tim Hannan dressed as a Maltese fisherman. In front of Richard is Mrs. Theresa (Tessie) Bugeya who made the faldetta and the fisherman costumes. Consul General Milo Vassallo, along with Melita Travel Service provided brochures on the Maltese Islands.

Also present was the president of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto Mr. Charles Gixti and Mr. Henry Formosa, president of the "M-C F". The event was covered by Mr. Alfred Fenech, producer and host of the television program "Lehen Malti". However the highlight of the Maltese exhibit was a recital performed

by Malta's popular singing duo and comedians Veronica and Joe Farrugia popularly known as "id-Dulli".

The Farrugia's visit to Toronto had been sponsored by the Canada Branch of HSBC, and through the Maltese-



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cumbo

Canadian Federation (M-C F) for the then upcoming "Imnarja" celebrations. Due to it's overwhelming success this event might become an annual event.

"The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (M.C.S.T.) formed it's first band, a junior one in the late 1930's. This band participated mainly in events at the first St. Paul the Apostle Church in West Toronto "Junction". The focus of the M.C.S.T. when it was founded in 1922 and being the only Maltese club (until the early 1960's) was the erection of a Maltese National church, this was achieved by the Society and the young community in 1930. For many years the junior band took part in processions organized by St. Pauls'.

It entertained the community and members in St. Pauls' old parish hall. With the large increase of emigrants arriving in Toronto after the Second World War, a larger church was required. Once again the founders and members of the Society along with members of the community assisted the Franciscan Fathers in building the present edifice completed in 1956. The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto was so involved in this enterprise that it is the only organization named on a stone slab as you enter the church, along with names of founders, and benefactors. It was also involved in the building of the present halls and rectory in 1960.

In the late 1960's during the presidency of Chev. Frank Savona and later Chev. John R. Cordina, the Society decided to establish an adult band. It took time and effort to first acquire the necessary instruments and a place in which to practice. This was achieved and in 1968 under the professional leadership of M.C.S.T. member Maestro Paul Gauci a Maltese style marching band was formed. The M.C.S.T. Band proudly participated in events in the community. The bandsmen at the time numbered approximately 30-40, all wore their red blazer with the crest of the Society when performing.



President John Cordina was so appreciative of the bands efforts and performances that he presented the M.C.S.T. Band with a silver trophy.

The engraving on the trophy states " Presented to the M.C.S.T. Band by Chev. J.R. Cordina, President and Family. 21.1X.70". Unfortunately a year later (1971) due to a personality conflict the band left the Society and formed it's own club and became the now extremely popular Malta Band Club, Inc. Every year the Malta Band Club holds a concert in honour of the late Maestro Paul Gauci. Although the Maltese Society of Toronto (as it was known in earlier times) had to close in 2019 because

of the situation that had befallen it over the past ten years, indirectly a part of it still lives."

By Richard Cumbo,

MALTESE-WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

IL-MALTESE-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ser jic-celebraw l-Ghid Imqaddes nhar l-Erbgha 1 ta' April fil-Kappella ta' De Piro House Stanley Street Sydney.

Fil-11.00 am quddiesa fejn qabel ikun hemm qrar bil-Malti u jinghad ir-Ruzarji. Wara, jkun hemm Tea u Coffee Morning.

Kulhadd huwa mistieden biex jattendi biex niccelebraw din il-quddiesa ghall-festa sabieha tal-Ghid Mqaddes ma' Rev Fr Tarcisio Micallef MSSP il-kapillan tal-ghaqda u Rev Fr Benedict Sant MSSP li qieghed f'Sydney ghal btala.

Min irrid jixtri xi figolli jew helu bhal imqarret, qaghaq jew biskuttini tal-Ghid ghandu jordna min qabel billi jcampel lil President tal-ghaqda:

Joyce Nagy fuq: 9718 2795 jew hallu l-ishem u n-numru tat-telephone.

Hemm bzonn li tordnaw il-figolli jew il-helu tal-Ghid min qabel.

***Grazzi lil kull min jattendi ghall-laqghat jew il-quddiesa ta' Nhar ta' Hadd fl-10.00 am f'din il-kappella**

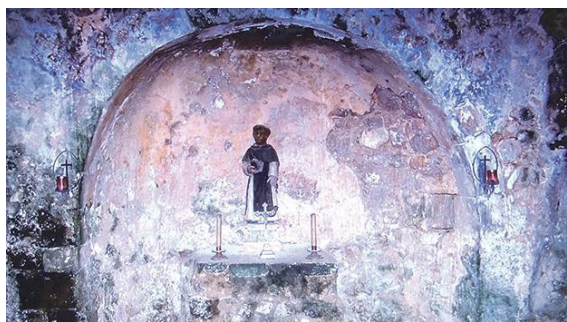


"Everything will be ok"; rainbows and silver linings

With schools having closed their doors because of Covid 19, Martina Catanzaro, a six year old girl from Mqabba, like thousands of other students around the islands, is spending her day confined to barracks with her parents. A few days ago, Martina and her parents were in Sicily, to celebrate Martina's grandmother's birthdays. Ever since returning to Malta, the Catanzaro family has been under quarantine, and will be home for another week. Recently in Italy it appears that music brought comfort to a number of people stuck at

home under quarantine. Here in Malta, the Catanzaro family have taken to drawing, in the hope of sharing some levity, despite the coronavirus which has disrupted our daily lives. In comments to tvm.com.mt, Martina's mother, Claire, said she was doing everything to distract her daughter from the virus that has recently dominated the media, involving her husband and daughter in arts and crafts, including drawing a rainbow to spread a message of hope and courage.

Irreparable of Għar San Anard



Għar San Anard before its degradation.

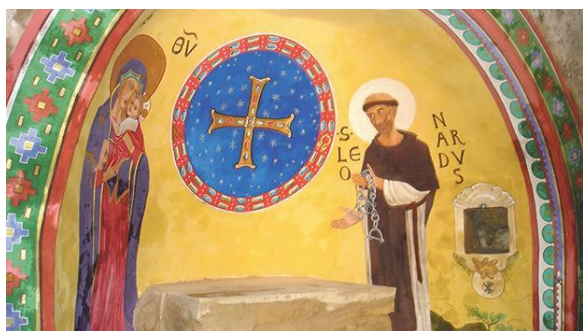
The iconic cave-church of St Leonard (L-Għar San Anard), located in an idyllic oasis of unspoiled old Maltese rural charm at Wied Liemu (also known as Wied il-Lunzjata), limits of Rabat, is a site of notable artistic and archaeological interest meriting the highest degree of protection.

It is in many ways the finest surviving example of a late medieval rock-cut church dating to before 1418, when its cult

was sufficiently well established to give its name to the district, which was recorded as 'Sancto Leonardo' in the testament of the Royal Kinswoman Donna Margarita d'Aragona, who owned the land.

Devotion to St Leonard, hermit saint of Noblac, was introduced by the Normans to whom he was one of the great saints because of the belief that it was through his intercession that Bohemund was freed from Muslim captivity in 1103. This established his reputation as Patron Saint of Captives and Slaves. In Malta, he enjoyed remarkable veneration. A church was dedicated to him in Kirkop, and in the church of Ħal Millieri his monumentally rendered image occupies the place of honour to the right of the altar in the cylindrical apse.

The new painting in the cylindrical apse.



The Wied Liemu cave-church could have been the central nucleus of a community of hermit monks. Its most remarkable feature is a built cylindrical apse that had a painting of which only daubs of painted plaster survived. I discussed them on site with Sharon Cather, Professor of Conservation Studies at the Courtauld Institute, London, about 10 years ago and she thought them worthy of scientific investigation.

This is now no longer possible. The apse has, in the last couple of years, been scraped clean to receive a new wall-painting of St Leonard and the Virgin in sham Byzantine style, destroying in the process the precious art historical and archaeological evidence. This is a flagrant example of what ignorance, incompetence and insensitivity can do to the national heritage. Għar San Anard has been degraded and robbed of an important diagnostic potential. The irony is that this sad intervention was presumably carried out with the best of intentions to give the cave a new cultic appeal and that those responsible are happy with what they have achieved. This heightens the tragedy of Għar San Anard.

Kif jiktbuha bil-Malti

bawling (bowling)
ekspresso (espresso)
ekstejnins (extensions)
indikejter (indicator)
plaaastijk (plastic)
scaf-FOWLD-ink (scaffolding)
stuwdjient (student)
bajsikil (bicycle)
vejs (vase)
winskrin (windscreen)
tixu (tissue)
trejddjunjins (trade unions)





MARIKA GALEA -Canada

Since blogging for the TD Toronto Jazz Festival in 2012, I've been asked to review CDs & shows and to share my thoughts on certain issues. Hopefully, my posts (especially reviews/interviews with local bands in Toronto, Boston, NYC, Montreal, Vancouver, L.A., etc.) generate the kind of cross-pollination required to expose audiences to new music. If there's something you'd like me to weigh in on, feel free to ask.

I have also recently (May 2013) decided to use this blog as a place to share some of my more creative pieces and thoughts.

Originally from Toronto, Canada, Marika Galea is a full scholarship student at Berklee College of Music, working towards a Bachelor of Music in performance and classical composition. She currently studies with bassist John Lockwood (George Garzone, Joe Henderson, Art Farmer), and has worked with many other prestigious faculty, including John Patitucci, George Garzone, and Ben Street since her enrolment in September 2012.



She has enjoyed the privilege of playing with a number of highly acclaimed artists including Cyrus Chestnut, Steve Davis, Tim Ries (Rolling Stones), Bucky Pizzarelli, Donny McCaslin, Aaron Goldberg, and the Thelma Yellin Big Band of Tel Aviv. She has also opened for the likes of Branford Marsalis & Joey Calderazzo, Joey DeFrancesco, Al Jarreau and Randy Brecker.

A former student of the University of Toronto and the Humber College Community Music School, Marika has studied bass with Dave Young, Jon Maharaj, and Tim Dawson (Toronto Symphony Orchestra). She has also held positions with the Canadian Wind Orchestra, the JazzFM91 Youth Big Band, and the National Music Camp of Canada.

In 2012, Marika reviewed shows and interviewed artists for the Toronto Jazz Festival News Corps. She began a regular gig at The Rex Hotel, Toronto's premier jazz venue, as the first student to ever host the Classic Rex Jazz Jam. She was also on-staff at the first ever University of Toronto 'Jazz Downtown Workshop'.

In 2013, she travelled to Santa Fe, NM, to take part in the first ever Mission Jazz Fellowship of The Swing with Walter Smith III. She hopes to continue to make music in Toronto, Boston and beyond for many years to come.

Artists she has worked with include:

Jazz: Terence Blanchard, Cyrus Chestnut, Warren Wolf, Jason Palmer, Jean-Michel Pilc, Vincent Herring, Philip Harper, Rachel Therrien, Yannick Rieu, Yves Léveillé, L'Orchestre national du jazz de Montréal, Ralph Peterson Jr.

Folk/Pop/Rock: Basia Bulat, Tim Kingsbury (Arcade Fire), Aerialists, Mackenzie Shivers, Dallas Thornton, Thus Owls, Jake Clemons (E Street Band), U.S. Girls



MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Visit by Fr Karm Borg, MSSP

Fr Karm spent a few months with us and previously served as pastor of the St Paul The Apostle Church for over 15 years and now is returning to Malta where he will continue his mission in Rabat, Malta. Fr Karm paid a courtesy visit to the Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri at the Office of the Consulate General. Dr Xerri thanked him for his sterling service

to the Maltese Community here in Canada and wished him all the best in his future missions and asked for his blessing on the Maltese Community in this difficult times.



JOHN CALLEJA: MALTA, NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WW1

John bemoans the fact that not many Australians know of the important role that Malta played in caring for wounded and ill ANZACS during WW1. He tells us about his plans to hold a commemorative event in Malta in April 2021 to spread the word about Malta's history.

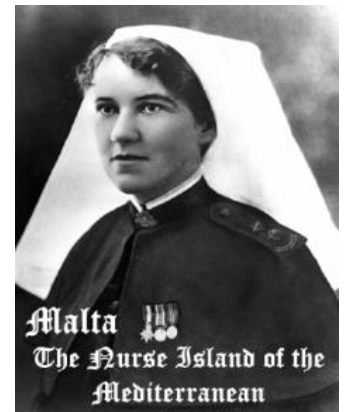
Can't get 101.5FM? Listen to the live broadcast on your computer on 16.03.2020 at 6pm S.A. time : <http://radioadelaide.org.au/program/service-voices/> just click the orange button near the top of the page where it says 'LISTEN LIVE ON AIR'.

Service Voices is also broadcast Australia-wide every week by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia's Community Radio Network.

Helen Meyer

Executive Producer: *Service Voices - service to country, service to community*

On air each Monday from 6 - 7pm Radio Adelaide on digital radio; live online and on 101.5FM. Also broadcasts Australia-wide via the CBAA CRN every week



CORONAVIRUS CHURCH DIRECTIVES

The Church has not since felt the need to impose such tight restrictions even through other serious epidemics such as cholera, small pox, Spanish flu and other cases of bubonic plague, historian Simon Mercieca told Times Malta.

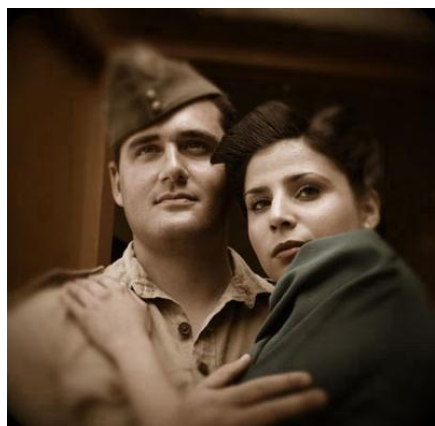
In a joint statement, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Gozo bishop Mario Grech last Thursday [announced the suspension of all religious services](#) including Mass, as well as catechism lessons, although the churches have remained open.

Catholics have been given dispensation from Sunday Mass. Funerals are not exempt either: only a blessing ceremony at the burial place may be held and only in the presence of close relatives. Priests will offer Mass for the souls of the deceased behind closed doors.

Meanwhile, the faithful are being urged to follow daily Mass at 9.30am on TVM 2 or on the internet at Knisja.mt and Newsbook.com.mt.

Home Is Where The Heart Is

by Kat and Chuck (Sudbury, Ontario, Canada)



On the edge of burnout and desperately needing to get away, I talked to my husband Chuck, about planning a vacation. I said I wanted to see the country where he was born and raised.

I wanted to see Malta. It was to be my very first trip anywhere outside of North America.

We started planning the trip immediately; finding an apartment, booking a rental car, making flight arrangements and finally, getting in touch with **family that Chuck hadn't seen in over 30 years.** The six months leading up to our trip were full of excitement and stories, research and pictures. But nothing was as exciting as finally touching ground at the airport. We arrived on April 3 and **my life hasn't been the same since.** We had made it across the ocean to a different country, a different culture, a different language. As soon as we cleared customs there was a scream and Chuck's sister Connie was running towards us. Then came her husband George, her daughter Yana and daughter-in-law Fiona. Rib breaking hugs, and tears, and laughter, and even more tears ensued.

I knew at that moment I had found a home. For three incredible weeks, we revisited the places of Chuck's childhood and discovered all the new places that had grown up since he had left the Island. We visited every historical and cultural site. We walked through the valleys, the fields, and the streets. We attended the **Strawberry Festival at Mgarr**, the **Good Friday procession at Mosta**, and the **Easter Sunday celebrations in Birgu.** Chuck and his family were concerned that the crowds would be overwhelming for me but all I could see were friendly, smiling faces. Kind faces. We visited with all the family and there was a LOT of family.

Every day dawned with a new adventure just waiting around the corner.

I was in love with Malta. Underneath all of the sightseeing and tours, throbbed the true heartbeat of my Malta experience - **the people.** The Maltese people stole my heart. I have never felt so safe, so loved, and so cared for in my life. They treated me as if I had always been family, even complete strangers were there to laugh with us, talk with us, and share with us. One memory that will live with me forever was **sitting at an outdoor cafe in Valletta** eating a freshly baked chicken pie with the sun shining and people all around us laughing and talking. I remember thinking, **"this is what life was meant to be like".** I think that was the best meal I've ever had. And then, time started to pass too quickly. The remaining week of our trip dwindled to a few days, then a few hours. As we stood in the airport saying goodbyes, tears flowing, last hugs given, I felt that my heart would tear out of my chest and that I would never be whole again. Before the plane had left the ground I had decided that, come hell or high water, I would live in Malta.

By the time we arrived at Heathrow, I had confirmed that Chuck felt the same. When we arrived at Toronto airport, we were trying to figure out how long it would take to sell everything and get "back home". After a week of being back in Canada, still heartsick for Malta, reality sunk in.

We had family obligations (my parents are elderly and it would be wrong to leave them alone), work obligations, and life got in the way. With help from Chuck's family, we've begun to make a stronger, more sensible (although far less romantic) action plan. I am learning the language and applying for my Maltese citizenship this year. We will take things slowly, fulfill our obligations so when we move, it is with a clean slate. When friends ask why I want to move this is what I tell them: The people are incredible, the food is wonderful, the culture is outstanding, the weather is beautiful, the history is mind boggling, there's never a dull moment ... **how could I NOT want to move?** And, why aren't you coming with me.



Il-papa' mar xtara mobile,
Mudell ġdid tassew sabiħ!
Nesa l-video u l-gazzetti,
Ilu ġimgħa ħsiebu fih.

“X’meravilja!” jibda jreden,
“Żgur bħal dana qatt ma rajt,
Anki jdoqqlok Happy Birthday,
W għall-Milied: is-Silent Night.

“Fih il-logħob bħal tal-kompjuter,
U messaġġi li jkellmuni...!”
U dam siegħa mreken waħdu
Medhi jagħfas il-buttuni!

Liz-zijiet ċemplilhom kollha,
Lill-ħbieb tiegħu u l-ġirien,
Lin-nanniet u lill-kuġini,
Il-card ħlieha f’tlitt ijiem

Ma’ kull ħarġa, ma’ kull qadja,
X’battikata, x’waħda din!
Dlonk tarah bil-mobile miegħu,
Bhal pistola f’ċintorin.

Hu u jsuq iħobb iċempel,
Jagħmel l-isbah diskussjoni,
Għad xi darba jaqbd u l-Warden
U jċapċaplu ċitazzjoni!

Fi triqitna għal għand in-nanna,
Illi toqgħod in-Naxxar,
Dorna lura mħabba l-mobile
Għax insieh warajh id-dar.

Il-Ħadd l’għadda, fil-quddiesa
Smajt ħoss ċkejken, mużikali,
Kien il-mobile qed iċempel
F’nofs is-Salm Responsorjali.

Fid-dar tagħna l-ħajja nbidlet,
Għandna ċerta serjeta’,
Sirna aktar effiċjenti
B’dan il-mobile tal-papà.

U x’hin rani mmissu nitfa,
Trid tarah... qajjem irvell!
Ħatafhuli minn idejja,



MALTESE -CANADIAN
MUSEUM/ARCHIVES
COMMITTEE

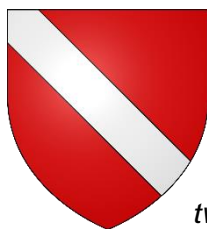
Photo taken Mar. 12, 2020

Left to Right:

Deborah Lightfoot, Carmen Galea,
Manuel (Mani) Mifsud,
Curator Richard Cumbo,
Michael Gouveia,
Rose Cassar & chairperson
Father Mario Micallef, MSSP.

Photo by Fr. Karm Borg, MSSP

Until further notice the
museum/archives
is now closed due to COVID-19.



The village of Mqabba - Malta

Mqabba is a typical old-charm laid-back village in the south of Malta. The village is famous for its two brilliant and rival fireworks factories that have even earned themselves international recognition. Archaeological remains, caves and catacombs may also be found here.

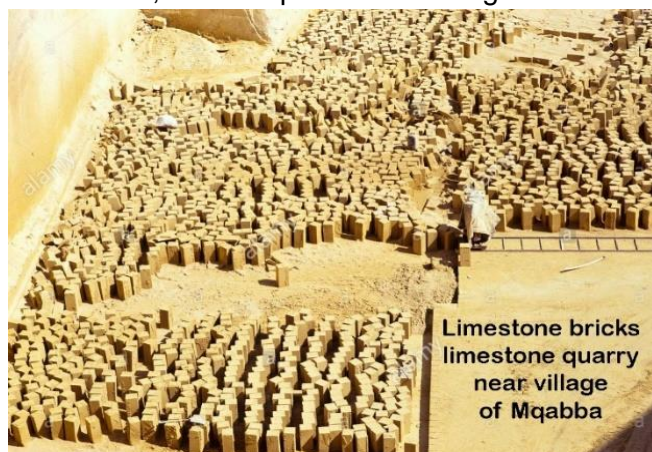


Situated in the South of Malta at the heart of a soft limestone area, the village of Mqabba is surrounded by quarries, supplying more than a quarter of island's supply of construction material with construction naturally being the town's main industry. But this is hardly the most interesting aspect of Mqabba.

Mqabba retains the character of a typical Maltese village, with a peaceful stillness in its streets leading from its centrally located Parish Church dedicated to the Assumption. Its feast is held on the 15th of August together with another six villages celebrating the same feast, namely nearby Qrendi, Gudja and Ghaxaq, and also in Mosta, Attard and Victoria (Gozo). This partly led to the highly competitive streak of its Fireworks Factories which have become synonymous of Mqabba. Another feast is that of Our Lady of Lilies (Madonna tal-Gilju), celebrated in the third Sunday of June. If you are in Malta in these periods or during the Malta International Fireworks Festival, join the thousands of locals, tourists and enthusiasts that flock to enjoy Mqabba's unique fireworks displays.

Mqabba's fireworks displays have made the town of Mqabba quite famous. Both the St Mary Fireworks Factory and The Lily Fireworks Factory have put themselves on the international stage. The St Mary Fireworks Factory has won the 1st edition of the Malta International Fireworks Festival in 2006 and the Caput Lucis Fireworks World Championships in 2007 in Rome as well as the IV National Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival in 2010. The Lily Fireworks Factory has won the II National Mechanised Ground Fireworks Festival in 2008 and in June 2011 it established the Guinness World Record for the Largest Catherine wheel with a diameter of 32 metres.

But Mqabba has more to offer than just two very beautiful and interesting Band Clubs and fireworks factories. In fact Mqabba's archeological discoveries such as Bur Meghez cave and Mintna Catacombs, a complex measuring 139 cubic



Limestone bricks
limestone quarry
near village
of Mqabba

metres discovered in Diamond Jubilee Square in 1860, indicate that Mqabba has been important since Neolithic times. Extinct animals were also discovered in quarries at Ta' Kandja and Tax-Xantin.

Also worth visiting are several old chapels dedicated to St. Basil, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. John and St. Catherine of Alexandria.

We have been providing this service for the Maltese communities abroad for six years without fail.

We now have a voice and we keep our communities connected



The midwife and births in the Maltese community during the 20th Century

Posted On March 15, 2020 - Updated 15 March, 2020 9:36am

Report: Fiorella Pace



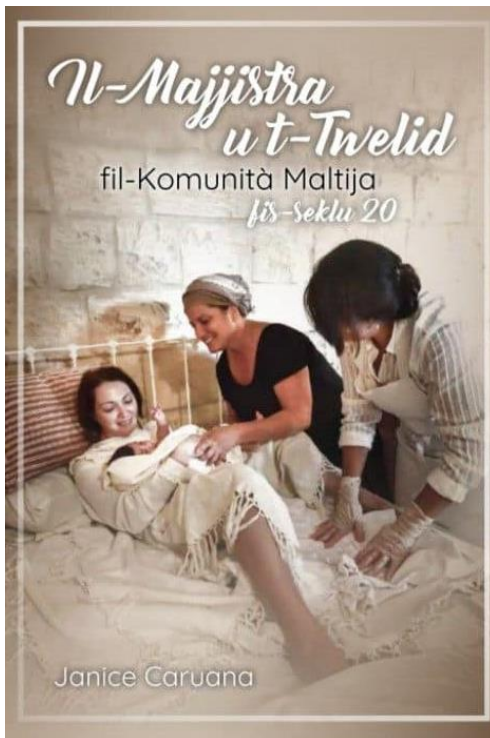
PHOTO: DOI - Kevin Abela

The work of the midwife, who during the middle of the 20 Century used to assist in the birth of babies at Maltese homes, was researched in a book by author and nurse Janice Caruana. Among other things, Caruana researched how midwives used assist women who gave birth in secret.

Janice Caruana spent six years researching about the duties and work of midwives from the beginning of pregnancy till assisting in births at homes and also about visits that used to be done following births.

She said that she found old methods used during births or at emergencies, which today are no longer used as the majority of babies are delivered at the hospital's maternity department.

The author collected some 200 birth experiences at homes and spoke with eighteen midwives or their relatives.



"The somewhat mistaken perception that midwives were not qualified is totally wrong because I found warrants, exam papers and many other documents in my research. They had even great skills. They were flexible people and adapted to their working environment, at war shelters, secret births. The midwife and the mother had very good relations between them".

Janice Caruana mentions the positive aspects of these women who, in the beginning of the 20th Century, used to assist in deliveries at home while the women felt less anxious.

"The midwife was popular in the village, knew people personally and assisted mothers not to feel anxious. Therefore births were easier to deliver, used less medicines for pain and were in a family environment. There were also relatives who assisted her during births, so she did not feel alone".

Although she intended to give a surprise to those buying the book, the author said that her best discovery was that she found the place where secret births were held and the process of adopting the baby.

The book, 'Il-Majjistra u t-twelid fil-komunità Maltija fis-seklu 20', was launched under the patronage of President George Vella. He said that the book is a recollection of the clear picture of Maltese society, however he added that it is also a celebration of the Maltese woman.



An ex-voto painting of the plague showing the hospital in Valletta.
(Anna Lungaro, Sanctuary of Our Lady, Mellieħa)

Mass at the port of Marsamxett in the time of the plague

Report: Mario Micallef tvn.com.mt

In the past, before the age of broadcasting services and social media, the church would also celebrate mass for people in quarantine, even if at a considerable distance.

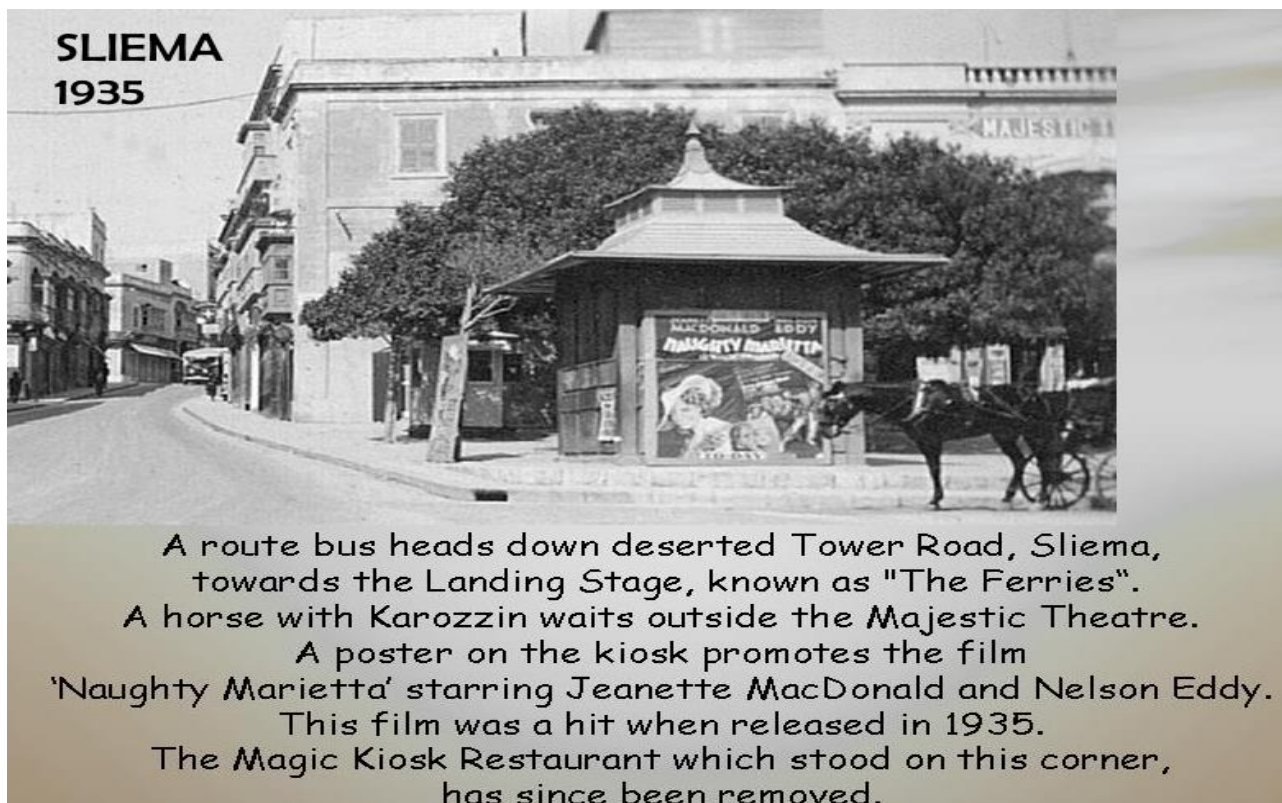
Patients who were quarantined at Lazzaretto, the Manoel Island Hospital

heard Mass from a small chapel built on the other side of the Marsamxett Harbor, on the edge of the Valletta bastions. The chapel was dedicated to St. Rocco, the saint and protector of infectious diseases like plague and other epidemics.

The Mass was celebrated by the Capuchin monks in Floriana, on an altar at the edge of the bastions. The chapel which dates back to the seventeenth century had collapsed in the war and was rebuilt. Researcher Tony Terribile said that even in the worst time of the 1813 plague, people could still hear Mass.

'It was built expressly for people who were ill with plague and who were refugees in the Lazzaretto hospital. So as not to miss the Mass celebration, the people would stay under the arches which are still there today and hear Mass from there.'

Lazzaretto served as the official quarantine station for more than 250 years. On the lower floor animals and merchandise were kept while the upper floor served as an isolation residence for people who had just arrived in Malta by boat. The length of compulsory quarantine varied and there were strict regulations on pain of punishment for those who try to escape.



A route bus heads down deserted Tower Road, Sliema, towards the Landing Stage, known as "The Ferries".
A horse with Karozzin waits outside the Majestic Theatre.
A poster on the kiosk promotes the film 'Naughty Marietta' starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy.
This film was a hit when released in 1935.
The Magic Kiosk Restaurant which stood on this corner, has since been removed.



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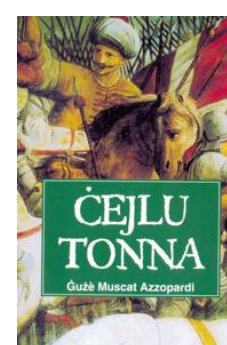
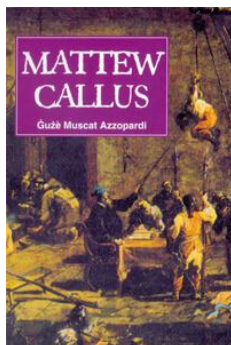
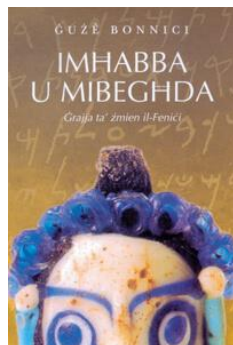
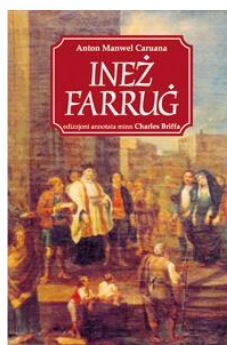
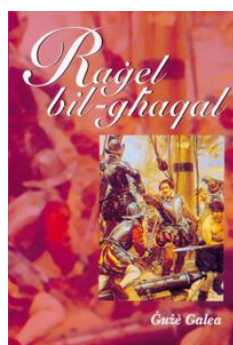
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Maltese Mass To Be Streamed Online And On TV So People Don't Need To Leave Their Homes Amid Coronavirus Outbreak

Mass will be
streamed online
on TVM2 to inhibit
the spread of the
COVID-19
coronavirus in
Malta.

Broadcasts from
the Madonna ta'
Manresa chapel at
the Curia in
Floriana will be
shown on TVM2,
the official website
of the Archdiocese
– www.knisja.mt –
and

Newsbook.com.mt



**Karrettun biż-żiemel mgħobbi b'bitija ta' l-ilma għall-użu tal-bexxiexa -
mezz użat l-aktar fit-toroq prinċipali ta' pajjiżna biex itaffi t-trabijiet**

History Talk: The Migrant Experience of the Maltese from Egypt to Australia by Randwick City Library

Join Geoff George (nee de Giorgio) as he recounts the story of his family's arrival in Australia in 1949 aboard the SS Continental.



The small Mediterranean island of Malta has often relied on emigration to deal with its population numbers. In the 50s and 60s, Australia saw the peak of its Maltese immigrants, with many coming to Aussie shores through the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

Geoff will explain how the Maltese came to be in Egypt, what their life was like, why his family chose Australia to be their new home and what their experience living in Matraville has

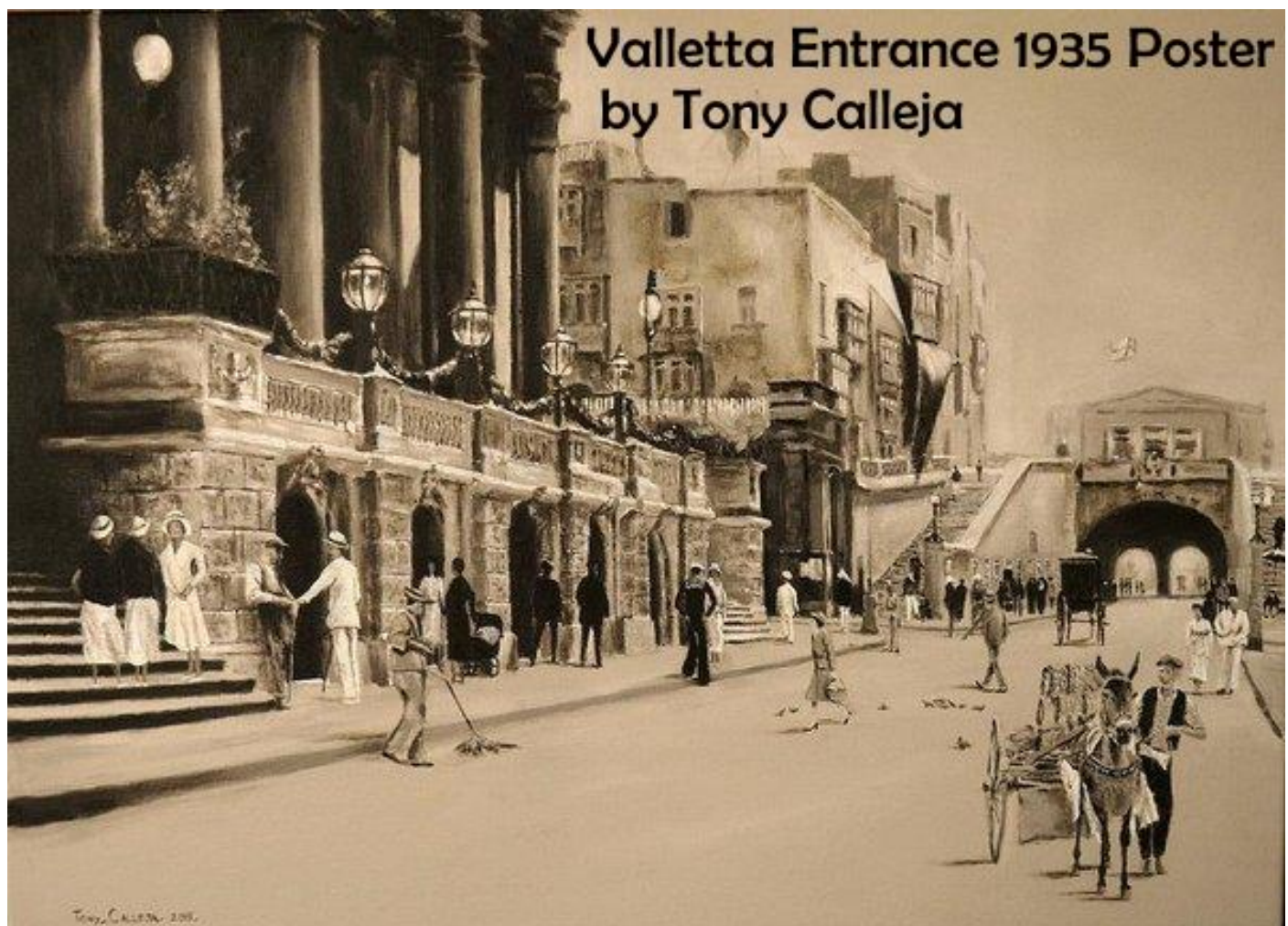
been.

Geoff George was a teacher for many years and holds a Masters in Education.

and Conditions set out above will have their tickets cancelled.

Date and Time Sat., 4 April 2020 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm AEDT

Location Margaret Martin Library Royal Randwick Shopping Centre Level 1 Randwick, NSW 2031



How COVID-19 has brought out the best in the Maltese community

Rebekah Cilia Monday, 16 March 2020

The new coronavirus has brought about a lot of fear, which may bring out the worst in people. Malta, however, seems to have many good souls who have taken the bull by the horns and offered to help out others in need.

Here are some amazing ways people in Malta are shining through the gloom.

The counsellor Mental health during such times is as important as physical health. A counsellor has offered to chat with anyone who needs emotional or psychological help, through online means.

The landlord Many a landlord have realised that rent money may be hard to come by this month, so they reduced their tenants' rent.

Yesterday I was thinking how I could actually help more in this situation as it is unprecedented and honestly I am more fearing the financial repercussion this would have on the economy.

I rent an apartment to a couple who earn a max of €1,500 between them. The rent is €625 and I reached out and offered a reduced rent of €500 until we are in a better situation.

They were so happy! In fact I got to know that although they work full time, they were are now both working reduced hours since last week. I'm writing this because everyone can do his bit. I still have a loan on the same property, I have three kids and my husband had to stop working as practically all his appointments got cancelled. However, everyone has to carry a small part of this burden if we want that we all survive together. #letsfightcovid19

The food sharer One lovely woman has offered to share her stock of food, specifically baked beans and eggs, with anyone who does not have food, or cannot afford to buy. She also offered to go shopping for people who cannot go to the supermarket themselves and deliver their shopping.

This woman was not the only one. A list was created with several people offering to buy and deliver groceries to those in quarantine.

Even the Armed Forces of Malta have pitched in to help with grocery deliveries. "A number of deliveries are being made at several times throughout the day to ensure that those in need get the assistance they require," they said.

The brave children Schools are shut but children are using their time to draw up inspiring posters urging us all to keep safe.

The room provider Since guesthouses are empty at the moment, one kind man offered up the empty rooms to all those in serious need and also to hospital staff. Another man has offered apartments and short let rooms in Valletta at low prices for any healthcare professionals who do not want to go home and expose their family.

The businesses All those business owners who have contributed in some way. Some by providing their services free-of-charge to those in need discounted delivery rates and also giving parents free children's TV channels.

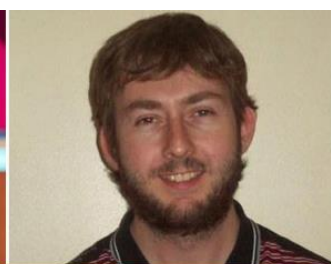
The entertainers The virus may have started in Wuhan but so did singing from the windows, to keep spirits high. Italians then took over and now the trend has come to Malta. Famous local singers, Toni Camilleri, I-Ghannej, and Kevin Borg, provided their respective neighbourhoods with some entertainment.



'THE PLANS ARE SENSIBLE'



'DELAY = DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STOP NEW CASES'



'WE HAVE TO DO AS WE'RE TOLD'



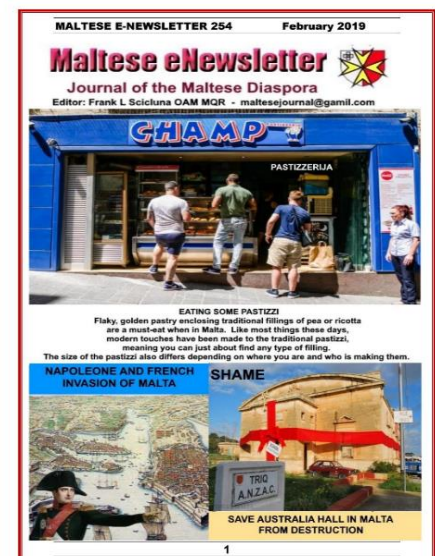
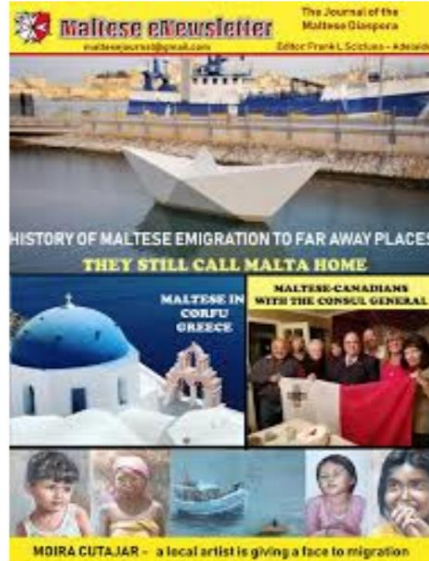
'WE ALL NEED TO CALM DOWN'



'THE GOVERNMENT DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH'



'THEY'RE TREATING IT LIKE A CRICKET MATCH WITH TEA-BREAKS'



Some of the previous editions of the Maltese Journal