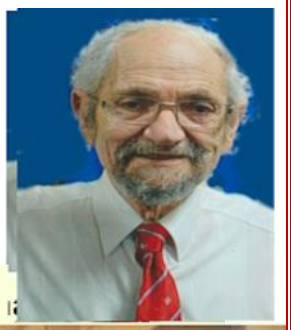
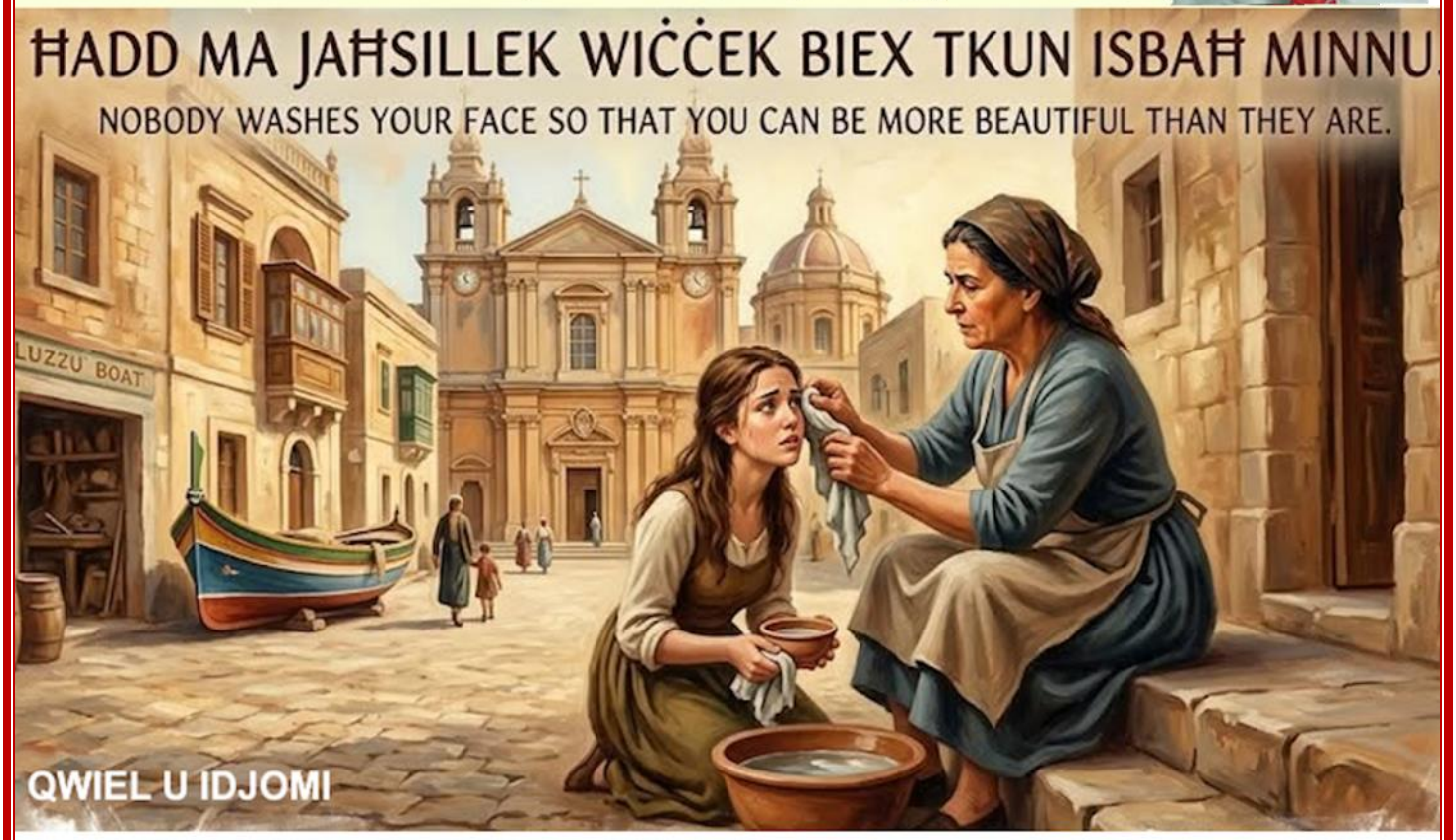
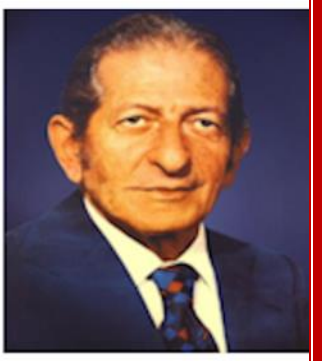
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
Journal for
Maltese Living Abroad



Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR Email - maltesejournal@gmail.com







GEORGE BORG OLIVIER





JOHN F KENNEDY

MULTICULTURAL AGED CARE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTERS
NEW WEBSITE
www.ozmalta.com
A TREASURE TROVE
OF ALL THE JOURNALS
FOR MALTESE LIVING
ABROAD



John Mangion

Unexpectedly, I went to see Frank Sicluna, who was sick in the hospital last week.
We hope he recovers quickly and can return to his daily life soon.
The MAC officials deliver a printed version oi this Maltese Journal.The club members eagerly queue to obtain a copy or two and within minutes, all the journals are gone.
Today I came across the recently updated ozmalta.com website created by Frank.
I'm really impressed with the very high quality content.
Frank has managed to include not only the latest issue of Malta Magazine, but all issues up to 2014.
The site is a treasure trove of cultural wealth and serves as the only major magazine archive dedicated to Maltese living abroad. Please come and visit us. You won't regret it.
On 29 October 2026, Multicultural Aged Care South Australia (MAC), 94 Henley Beach Road, Mile End, South Australia, held its Annual General Meeting. After concluding the discussion, the Minister presented certificates and awards to several members.
Frank Scicluna received the SENIOR MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP AWARD for his continued leadership in supporting diverse groups and improving the well-being of individuals and groups from culturally diverse backgrounds.
Frank is also the editor of the Maltese e-newsletter serving the Maltese community around the world.
This service is unique and highly appreciated by the Maltese community.
In addition, the Malta Seniors Club received a CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION for the excellent service provided to members and friends every Friday at the Community Hall located at 49 Lefunte Street. Kilburn.



MANY THANKS

Hello Frank, again Thank you for the latest issue of your magazine/newspaper etc. As usual it is very interesting and please God you will continue with your hard work of producing this very important "chain" of information & news. Like many others I look forward to receiving it regularly. Please rest assured your hard work is much appreciated, the result of which fills in a void that has existed since 2013. I am sure that there are many of your magazine readers that feel the same as I do, even though they are not publicly stating the obvious.
Frank, can I also tell you that if you wish at any time to write/quote any story or letter etc out of the book Letters to Cousin Charlie, please feel free to do so, as little or as much as you like and whenever you like. Warm Regards from Sydney

Charles N. Mifsud. MQR (Malta 2015). OAM (Aust.2018). J.P. (NSW 1980) .
Past President of Maltese Community Council of NSW 1996-2008
Past President Maltese RSL Sub-Branch 2006-2022.
President Maltese Cultural Association of NSW inc. 1996---

CARDINAL GRECH: "THANK YOU...YOU WERE ALSO ON MY MIND"



Cardinal Grech called the Conclave's experience as a burden but at the same time a sweet one.

I am happy...they were heavy days. It is unique and remains so in the sense that I hope that Pope Leo will stay on for long and when I will be aged 80, God's will, there will not be another Conclave!.

Cardinal Mario Grech

Referring to Thursday's presence in one of St Peter's Basilica balconies, together with other Cardinals, Cardinal Grech said he never watched such a big crowd. "However there is more than this: before the Proto-Deacon appeared, the Crucifix emerged...and when you see that big crowd applauding and emotional, not only because there was Pope Leo, but I want to interpret this was an act of faith".

Cardinal Grech added that he has known Cardinal Prevost since he became bishop of Gozo.

I know him very well...this augurs that we can continue working together. I am happy with the choice of Pope Leo, it is a choice that reflects the college of Cardinals. Both during the Conclave and during the first meeting I had with Pope Leo we didn't speak much but looked at each other...it was enough and I told him to bless our country.

Cardinal Mario Grech

Referring to the new Pope's mentioning that he wants a synodal church, Cardinal Grech told TVMnews that this emerged a lot during the pre-Conclave meetings of the Cardinals.

Many Cardinals said that this road should continue. I was greatly satisfied because it means that the work we carried out during these 3-4 years was fruitful and I am convinced that the new Pope will continue on the same road and push us to resume this process.

Cardinal Mario Grech

Cardinal Grech also said that he appreciated the many indications he received by the Maltese and Gozitan last week. "While I really appreciated that fact that our people, or better my people, followed closely the process and prayed for us, I want to thank them and also tell them that they were on my mind".

DUAL/MULTIPLE CITIZENSHIP



When Malta became an Independent State on 21st September 1964, Maltese citizenship legislation did not allow dual citizenship except in the case of minors, who, in order to retain Maltese citizenship were required to renounce their foreign citizenship between their 18th and 19th birthday. Failing to do so they lost their Maltese citizenship on their 19th birthday.

Those adults, who on the date of Malta's independence retained any other foreign citizenship, had to renounce it before 21st September 1967. Citizens of Malta who acquired another citizenship by a voluntary act lost their Maltese citizenship automatically on acquiring such foreign citizenship.

On 1st August 1989, the dual citizenship concept was introduced to the Maltese citizenship legislation, however, this was limited to Maltese emigrants and the persons concerned had to be:

1. born in Malta,
2. emigrated to another country of which they became citizens of; and
3. had spent at least six (6) years emigrated in that country.

Important changes to the said legislation were later made in 2000. Dual or multiple citizenship has now become the rule rather than the exception. As of 10th February 2000, a citizen of Malta could acquire and retain a foreign citizenship/s along with his/her Maltese citizenship. By means of such legislation, Maltese citizenship, was reacquired automatically by those who had ceased to be citizens of Malta prior to such provided that they satisfy certain criteria. If they do not, the reacquisition of Maltese citizenship would be facilitated by means of the person applying to be registered as citizen of Malta.

Has one's position changed following the amendments made to the Maltese Citizenship Act in 2000 in so far as dual citizenship is concerned?

Section 7 of the Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap. 188) stipulates that "*it shall be lawful for any person to be a citizen of Malta, and at the same time a citizen of another country*."

Hence following the amendments passed on 10th February 2000, Maltese citizens who acquire a foreign citizenship/s may retain their Maltese citizenship, whilst foreigners who acquire Maltese citizenship by registration or naturalisation may retain such citizenship together with a foreign citizenship. This is without prejudice that the foreign legislation may not allow dual citizenship for their own nationals.

Furthermore, Maltese citizens who had lost their citizenship prior to such date have automatically reacquired their Maltese citizenship if they satisfy the conditions hereunder. If not, they may reacquire it by registration.

Former citizens of Malta who do not qualify for automatic reacquisition of Maltese citizenship

Those persons who do not qualify for the automatic re-acquisition of Maltese citizenship (because prior to the 2000 amendments they either did not spend six (6) years abroad, or they were citizens

of Malta by registration or naturalisation when they acquired their foreign citizenship) would need to apply to be registered as citizens of Malta.

What are the necessary documents required in order for the Agency to confirm in writing that the person concerned automatically qualifies for dual citizenship?

If the person automatically qualifies for dual citizenship, he/she needs to present the following:

- Birth certificate;
- Marriage certificate (when applicable);
- Father's birth certificate;
- Parents' marriage certificate;
- A certificate showing the date of acquisition of the citizenship the individual presently holds (if this was acquired by registration or by naturalisation);
- Present passport (Maltese and/or non-Maltese); and
- Documentary evidence showing that the person has resided abroad for an aggregate period of at least six (6) years. This should include one's passport/s for the period/s concerned.

Automatic Reacquisition of Maltese citizenship by former citizens

In view of the said amendments, which came into effect on 10th February 2000, all those who

- became citizens of Malta automatically on or after 21st September 1964 by birth or by descent;
- subsequently lost Maltese citizenship; and
- have resided outside Malta for an aggregate period of at least six (6) years,

automatically re-acquired Maltese citizenship and were deemed to have never lost their Maltese citizenship.

Persons who had not attained their 19th birthday on 10th February 2000

Persons, who on 10th February 2000 had not yet attained their 19th birthday and held another citizenship, apart from that of Malta, retained such citizenship as they were no longer required to renounce their foreign citizenship in order not to lose their Maltese Citizenship.

Can a Maltese citizen have confirmation that he/she has reacquired his/her Maltese citizenship as a result of the 2000 amendments?

Confirmation in writing shall be given by the Agency following the submission of the relative enquiry form and the required documentation.

If one's previous passports were lost or destroyed, he/she may produce one of the following documents instead:

- A residence certificate normally issued by the Immigration Authorities of the respective country (such certificates have been issued in Australia, Canada and Italy);
- A statement showing one's annual earnings over a number of years (for example, the Canada Pension Plan Contributor statement or the Social Security Earnings statement issued by the United States authorities);
- A letter from his/her previous or present employer/s giving his/her employment history (this should include dates of employment engagement and termination);
- A confirmation of one's annual contributions paid under the National Insurance Scheme of the adoptive country (for example, the statements issued in the United Kingdom by Contributions Agency);
- Authorities' confirmation of any school or college that he/she attended (if the person acquired the citizenship of his/her adoptive country when he/she was still a minor);
- Any other document deemed acceptable by the Agency which proves that the person has resided outside Malta for an aggregate period of at least six (6) years.



Malta's New National Bird

By Sean Richardson NSW

Malta is famous for being a transit point for migratory birds, but on a recent visit to the island, locals told me they have a new national bird emblematic to the island, the Tower Crane.

From many vantage points across Malta and Gozo, the Tower Crane can be seen dotted across the skyline. Soaring above the buildings, the Tower Cranes are busy at work lifting and stacking the materials ever higher. I could spot 40 to 50 cranes on a given day. And they are not just situated around Sliema and St Julians, but were even visible from our accommodation at Marsascala. At least 20 of the Tower Cranes were perched all around the local area, their tall legs and long arms dotted across the skyline.

The construction boom shows no sign of abating, and while it is driving economic activity it is also driving some locals crazy with anxiety. There is rising anxiety about the negative impacts to the island's character and the disruption it is causing to everyday life.

The construction skywards is not confined to the seafront along Sliema but is spreading across Malta and Gozo which, in some controversial circumstances, is encroaching on public or reserved lands. This has generated considerable public backlash with local communities and NGOs protesting against the developers and government inaction.

While the focus has been on the construction frenzy in and around St Julians, the concerns are also being felt in smaller towns and locations. The established traditional buildings of two to four storeys are being built out by newer buildings approaching a height of ten storeys. The increased building heights cause the locals concerns about overcrowding and risks to inadequate infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, in the local area. A growing concern is that the new buildings will set new height limits in planning regulations for future constructions.

Contributing to the concern about the increasing height of buildings, is the clever approach used by some developers to increase the number of apartments within new buildings. According to The National Statistics Office (NSO) data, the number of dwellings per building permit has been steadily increasing since 2020, from 4.4 dwellings to 5.6 dwellings per building. This increase in density, the number of apartments built per building, was on an upward trend and led to court action. A landmark ruling by the Court of Appeal in 2025, closed a planning loophole which permitted a reinterpretation of dimension limits of apartments within an approved construction. This reinterpretation of planning laws allowed more apartments to be built within in an apartment block after its initial approval. For example, a building approved for ten apartments under the planning regulations could, with a reinterpretation of the apartment dimensions allowed under the regulations, have an extra five apartments squeezed into the same structure.

Construction work continues to expand and with it, public anger concerning over-development is reaching boiling point. The upcoming focus will be on several mega-projects including Manoel Island, the Villa Rosa complex at St George's Bay and Comino Hotel redevelopment proposals.

As Malta's population continues to increase and visitor numbers continue to grow, it is likely the Tower Crane will become endemic to the island

Dear Frank, as an avid reader of your magazine that celebrates the Maltese diaspora, I would like to share the short history of our Maltese Augustinian sisters who pioneered our mission in the world. Many of our Maltese sisters, some over 50 years ago, some just recently, are found where the Congregation is found: specifically, Italy, Malta, Australia, Brazil, England and previously America.

This year our Congregation, **Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary,** celebrates **200 years** since its foundation. The Maltese sisters have always been front and centre of this history with our very first convent in Malta being opened in Qormi. 8 August 1894.



This is not all, this year we remember the **first Maltese sisters who travelled to Australia** and this year celebrate **70 years** since becoming a part of the Australian Church. Since then, 22 Maltese sisters have come and gone from Australia, some being transferred to other countries some finding eternal rest in the arms of God who, I have no doubt has rewarded them for their sacrifices.

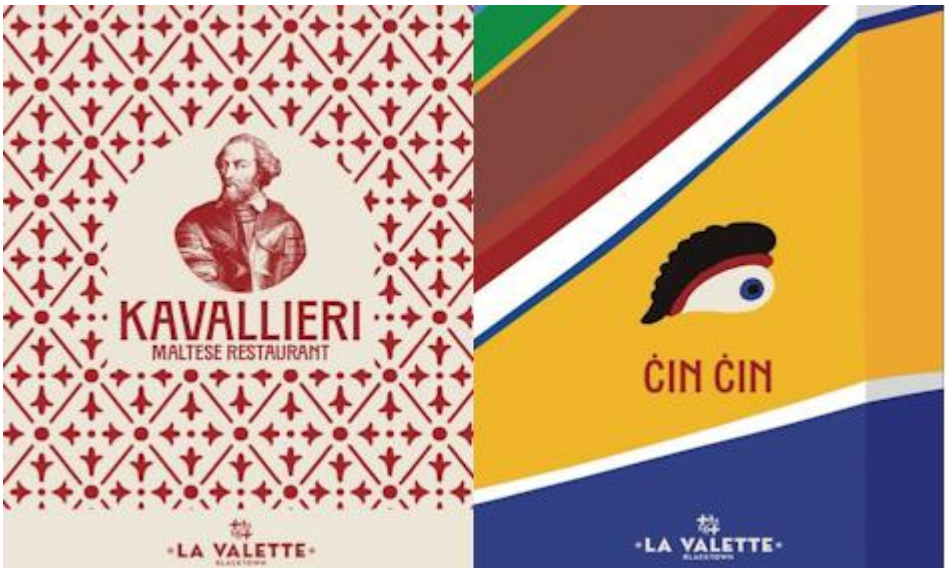
Another significant milestone is the **25th anniversary of our Orphanage** which is located in **Tagaytay, Philippines**. Once again, the Maltese sisters pioneered what was initially a hard beginning. 10 sisters have left a legacy of love that has enabled some 50 children to be adopted to families locally and internationally having embraced them lovingly.

Over all these years, across all the countries the Maltese sisters found themselves, they too had to struggle with language, with maintaining themselves financially and battling isolation and loneliness in a time where an 'air letter' was the only means of communication and family members often left to wave them goodbye from the wharfs of Malta, would remark with tears: I will not see her again.

As a daughter of Maltese parents and a proud member of the Maltese Province of the Congregation of the Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary, for them I praise God To the pioneers and the present persons who have sustained many Maltese and established religious works in the countries they served, may their legacy be continued.

Sr Lorraine Testa *asjm*

LA VALETTE SOCIAL CENTRE – BLACKTOWN NSW



OUR KAVALLIERI MALTESE RESTAURANT MENU IS NOW LIVE

And along with the beautiful Maltese cuisine, you can sit back and enjoy something from our wine and cocktail selection 🍷How about something with a Maltese twist?Check it out and reserve your table: lavalette.com.au/kavallieri-maltese-restaurant-sydney

🇲🇹You'll see that our menu doesn't only celebrate Maltese food, but our beautiful language too! Maltese names come first, while ensuring that it's all very accessible

Our KAVALLIERI Maltese Restaurant menu is now live 🙌

And along with the beautiful Maltese cuisine, you can sit back and enjoy something from our wine and cocktail selection 🍷How about something with a Maltese twist?🍹

Check it out and reserve your table: lavalette.com.au/kavallieri-maltese-restaurant-sydney

You'll see that our menu doesn't only celebrate Maltese food, but our beautiful language too! Maltese names come first, while ensuring that it's all very accessible



rk Buttigieg MLC was elected to the Legislative Council of NSW in March 2019 and was the Opposition Whip from July 2019 until the state election in March 2023. In April 2023, Mark was made the Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Relations, Parliamentary Secretary for Work Health and Safety and Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism.

Mark was born in Sydney to Maltese parents Victor and Carmen, who immigrated to Australia from Malta in the 1950s. He is married to Anna and together they have a son Gerard and live in Sydney's St George area.

Mark is an Electrician and has qualifications in the Electrical Trade and Electrical Engineering from TAFE NSW. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, with a major in Political Science and also has a Bachelor of Economics degree, graduating with first-class honours.

Mark began his working life as an Electrical Apprentice with the then Sydney County Council and later went onto become an electrical systems operator and training manager with Energy Australia, now Ausgrid.

Mark joined the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) in 1982 and the Australian Labor Party (ALP) in 1993 and has had extensive involvement with both Labor and the union movement. He was the Labor

candidate for the Federal seat of Cook in 2004 and 2007 and a Sutherland Shire Councillor from 2008 to 2012. Mark was an Organiser for the Electrical Trades Union NSW Branch before entering Parliament.

Mark is passionate about worker's rights and ensuring our state has safe regulations. He was instrumental in ensuring that Medical Gas and Mechanical services are now licensed in NSW. Previously anyone could undertake the work, which led to the horrific tragedy at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. Mark led Labor in the Upper House of NSW Parliament in protecting workers and residents by ensuring national Mutual Recognition laws cannot apply to the electrical, mining, teaching, and building, maintenance and construction industries. Mark has also continued to argue against the privatisation of state assets. Mark also has a deep commitment to Multiculturalism and attends Multicultural events where he represents the NSW Government on behalf of the Premier and the Minister for Multiculturalism Steve Kamper.

Prior to April 2023, Mark was the NSW Labor Spokesperson and Duty MLC for the electorates of Heathcote, Leppington and Camden, all three of which fell to Labor at the 2023 State Election. Mark was also the spokesperson and Duty MLC for Bathurst and Orange. Now, Mark is the NSW Labor Spokesperson and Duty MLC for the electorates of Drummoyne, Terrigal and Wollondilly.

Il-logħob fil-pjazza ta' Sant' Anton, ix-Xagħra



Is-Sajf kien iġib miegħu ħin twil li ma kontx taf x'ser taqbad tagħmel. Għalkemm minn dejjem kienu javżawk sabiex forsi taqra xi ktieb u tmur sal-librerija, l-affa tas-sħana qajla kienet ittik nifs taħseb fuqha. Pero' qisu l-istess sħana ftit kienet tħalli effett hekk kif kont tisma' taħbita fuq il-bieb ta' barra, u issib lil sħabek jgħidulek biex tmur tilgħab magħhom.

Diġa semmejt kif ħafna mis-sjuf ta' tfuliti qattajthom fir-raħal pittoresk tax-Xagħra. Aparti l-futbol, li kienet logħba feroċi u missielta sew, ta' spiss konna nilgħabu logħob ieħor ukoll. Dan kien isir għal diversi raġunijiet, imma l-aktar kienu l-fatt li mal-klikka kienu jiżdiedu bosta bniet li l-futbol ma jinteressahomx, u fatt ieħor li xi wieħed jew tnejn minnha kienu jispiċċaw aktar moħħhom fil-ħarsa minn taħt ta' xi waħda minnhom, milli fejn irid jiskorja l-ballun!

Allura għal dawn ir-raġunijiet, l-logħpb kien jinbidel. Fil-Pjazza ta' Sant' Anton, tgħallimt ħafna mil-logħob tradizzjonali, li sa dak iż-żmien f'Malta, jew kien diġa inqata' jew inkella ħa isem ieħor u forsi laqta' aktar moderna. Imma f'din il-pjazza, tgħallimtom bil-mod klassiku, inkluż b'xi tkaxkira tajba fuq iż-żrar.

Waħda popolari li qatt ma kont smajt biha kienet il-logħba tax-xixu. Biċċa njama twila, inħabbtu fuq oħra iżghar u tolqotha. Il-glieda tibda' minn ser jaqbadha l-ewwel sakemm għadha fl-arja. Umbad jekk tolqot li xi ħadd f'wiċċu, kont tgħidlu ħokkha u tgħaddilek... jew tikber u tinsa'!

Oħra kienet il-ġbid tal-ħabel. Xi ħabel dejjem sibna jew iddubajna, u allura kienet tibda' kompetizzjoni grassa fost is-subien min ser jimpressjona l-aktar. Jibda' ħiereġ l-għaraq u s-saħħa, u fuq kollox kont ninduna kemm kelli bżonn nsostni aktar lili nnifsi, speċjalment wara xi ġibda tajba u nikolha minn tuli fl-art. Umbgħad kien hemm dawk klassiċi, l-ħarba, Gwerra Franċiża, il-Passju (forsi aktar kien assoċjat mal-bniet, imma konna nidħlu għalih kollha!), u forsi xi "Ara ġejja l-mewt għalik".

Qisu kelna hemm sal-eternita', u l-ħin ta' dan il-logħob ma konna nixbgħu minnu qatt. Pjazza konna nġennuha bl-istorbju, l-ġiri u l-għajjat. Min jittanta minn naħa u min moħħu fil-logħba li jmiss. Ma kellniex kwiet f'ġisimna. Ħasra illum dak il-ġiri nqata', u l-istess pjazza flok tfal jiġru u jilgħabu ma tarax ħlief aktar spazju għal aktar karozzi!

-*IMMAKULATA L-ISBAĦ ĠAWHRA*

poeżija ta'
Kav. Joe M. Attard Ir-Rabat, Għawdex 2026



Qiegħed nagħmel ħilti kollha
sabiex nikteb poeżija
lil din l-Omma Immakulata,
illi tnisslet mingħajr ħtija!

U meqjuma b'għożża kbira
f'din il-Knisja Franġiskana
fejn ta' spiss niġu fi ħdanha
u hienja hawnhekk tarana!

U mat-tmienja ta' Diċembru
bi tbissima fuq spallejna
ma' triqatna inti toħroġ
u d-dmugħ tislet minn għajnejna!

U triqatna malajr jilbsu
mill-maħżen l-ilbies tal-festa –
pavaljuni, bandalori,
u statwi tal-kartapesta!

U l-Knisja tinbidel f'Ġenna,
gandlieri u damask mill-fin,
mixegħla, muż'ka mill-aqwa...
fejn sa ssib ferħ hekk ġenwin!

Ftit tan-nar dejjem ikollna
għax dil-festa mħawra sewwa;
ħoss il-banda lilna jferraħ
b'armonija tassew ħelwa!

Għalkemm kont quddiem l-
Assunta meta ktibt dil-
poeżija,
kienet din l-Omm mingħajr
ħtija l'ispiratni f'din is-siegħa!

Wara kollox ġewwa s-Sema
hemm Omm waħda tistenniena
li bil-ħerqa għalina titlob –
ulied Kristu illi fdiena!

La tħallix dil-festa tgħaddi
bla ma nersqu lkoll lejk –
inti l-Omm l-iktar setgħana
illi tridna dejjem ħdejk!

U meta t-Tlieta toħroġ
biex iddur mar-Rabat tagħna,
fuq fommna nissel tbissima
biex henjin lilna tarana!

Ukoll Lill-Qalin u lill-Bormliżi



JOE STAFRACE

(HISTORY)

Labour stalwart who endured imprisonment for the vilification of the British governor and banishment from Catholic rites under the Interdict,

The politician Joe Micallef Stafrace, a Labour minister, died at the age of 87 in 2021

Micallef Stafrace became A member of Malta parliament in 1962 in a casual election for the vacant seat of Patrick Holland, which he retained in the elections after to become minister for trade, industry and tourism in the first Mintoff administration of 1971. But he resigned abruptly in October 1971, for reasons never officially disclosed.

Micallef Stafrace was born in Valletta in 1933, and pursued his studies at the Lyceum and the University of Malta. In 1955 he became the editor if Labour's bi-weekly newspaper Is-Sebħ, a newspaper which was suspended for two months in 1959 by court order after Micallef Stafrace was sentenced to four days' imprisonment for the vilification of the governor Robert Laycock in a cartoon for his newspaper Is-Sebħ, for portraying him as a drunkard.

He married Yvonne Zammit in 1961. Together they had three children: Magistrate Yana Micallef Stafrace, lawyer Simon Micallef Stafrace, and one-time Labour candidate for Europe, Kirill Micallef Stafrace.

Wedding bells: Joe Micallef Stafrace and wife Yvonne in 1961, with Labour MP Patrick Holland

As a member of the Labour executive, Micallef Stafrace was interdicted from the Catholic Church's holy rites by decree of Archbishop Mikiel Gonzi, preventing him from getting married in a church. He was instead married in the church sacristy.

In 2019, he welcomed Archbishop Scicluna's blessing of Guze Ellul Mercer's grave in the Addolorata cemetery as "a beautiful and unexpected gesture, because Guze Ellul Mercer's grave is a symbol for all Labourites. I have only praise for this gesture." The unconsecrated ground in which Ellul Mercer was buried was dubbed the 'mizbla', something which caused deep anguish in relatives of people denied this final rite of passage.

"I was the editor of Labour's newspaper Is-Sebħ when my family was denied from fully experiencing an important rite in Maltese life. My greatest regret is that my wife had to pass through it. Her bridal dress was sown by her mother. Her family wished to see her accompanied by her father to the altar. Instead we entered the church from the back and into the sacristy. When Yvonne was asked whether she'd take me as her husband she yelled out 'yes', her voice resounding well beyond the thick walls of the sacristy!

"To add to the humiliation, a group of youths chanted politically charged hymns outside the church.

"But I make a firm distinction between the duty to remember these events and remaining resentful or bear a grudge. Memories cannot be erased, but one should forgive without forgetting, and remember without too much bitterness. I was directly involved and an apology does not heal all wounds but one should not remain stuck in the past. History is life's teacher but one should not remain anchored in the past."

Micallef Stafrace remembered

The government and Opposition leader saluted Micallef Stafrace's memory, while Magistrate Joe Mifsud held a minute's silence in his courtroom on Friday morning.

The magistrate praised Micallef Stafrace's contribution as a lawyer and a court expert. He was joined in the salutation by veteran lawyer Joe Brincat, who praised Micallef Stafrace's unstinting defence of freedom of expression even at the expense of going to jail.
All lawyers and the prosecuting officers present in the courtroom saluted Micallef Stafrace and the message was communicated to the deceased's daughter Magistrate Yana Micallef Stafrace and son Simon Micallef Stafrace, a lawyer and court expert.

CLAUDIO BAGLIONI, SARAH BRIGHTMAN TO JOIN JOSEPH CALLEJA FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The three singers will perform opera, Italian songs and festive favourites alongside the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra on December 18
NationalEntertainmentMusicChristmas
Times Of Malta



Claudio Baglioni (left), Sarah Brightman and Joseph Calleja

Italian singer-songwriter Claudio Baglioni and British soprano Sarah Brightman will join Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja for a Christmas concert at the MFCC in Ta' Qali on December 18.
The three singers will perform alongside the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme combining opera, Italian songs and festive favourites.
Tickets go on sale Sunday (today) at noon through eventworks.mt.
The concert marks a return to Malta for Baglioni, whose 2007 concert brought together Maltese and Italian artists to promote dialogue through music. With a career spanning six decades, Baglioni is one of Italy's best-known singer-songwriters.
Brightman originated the role of Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* in both the West End and Broadway. Known for bringing together classical and pop music, she has also performed at the Barcelona and Beijing Olympic Games.
She recently played Norma Desmond in a touring production of *Sunset Boulevard* across Australia and Asia. The Malta concert will be held under the musical direction of Paul Bateman, together with Adriano Pennino and Kevin Abela. The BOV Joseph Calleja Children's Choir, directed by soprano Gillian Zammit, will also take part.
"The festive season carries a special kind of joy, and I am delighted to share the stage with such exceptional artists for this celebration," Calleja said.
"Together, we hope to create an evening filled with warmth, emotion and the beauty of music that brings people together."
The concert is organised by greatt, with the support of VisitMalta, Festivals Malta and Bank of Valletta.



THE VOYAGE THAT NEVER WAS

As told by Theresa Sultana

This photograph captures a quiet turning point in our family's history—a studio portrait arranged as my grandparents prepared to leave Malta behind. Packed trunks, farewells, and the promise of a fresh start in Australia lay just ahead. They gathered their young children before the camera for one final keepsake, meant to freeze a moment in time before they set sail across the world.

Yet fate intervened. In the spring of 1930, my grandmother discovered she was expecting. Long ocean voyages were no place for an expectant mother, and when baby Carmen arrived on December 14 of that year, plans were shelved. Australia slipped away, and the family remained firmly rooted in Maltese soil.

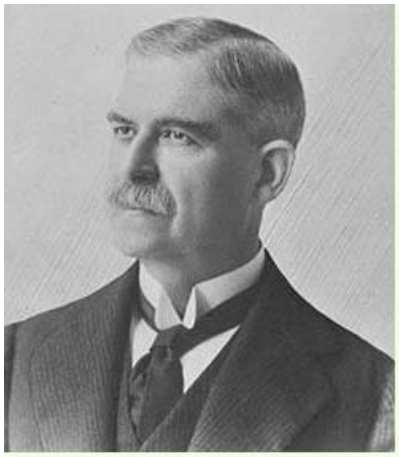
The impulse to cross oceans was already woven into my grandmother's lineage. Born Carmen (Carmena) Gauci in Mellieħa, she came from a family accustomed to distant horizons. Her brother Spiro had emigrated to San Francisco in the 1910s, building a life there with three daughters—including Jennie, who was nearing her century mark when we last spoke in 2020. One sister married an Italian gentleman named Bonmassari and made a home in France, while another took holy vows and lived out her days in an Italian convent. My grandfather, Joseph Borg, belonged wholly to Santa Venera and Ħamrun, tied to a legendary, sprawling web of kin. His mother, Gianna, had married four times—first to Borg, then to Calleja, Mifsud, and Sciberras. Because she wed widowers who already had households and went on to bear children across three of those unions, my grandfather loved to joke that he had every kind of sibling known to man: full, half, and step. By his estimation, half of Santa Venera was connected to us by blood, marriage, or sheer familiarity.

The anchor of all our early years was the family home at 33 Msida Road in Santa Venera, later renumbered 95. When my mother, Maria Assunta—the young girl standing so formally in this portrait—married my father, George, in late November 1950, they simply moved in with my grandparents. It was inside those thick stone walls that I entered the world on March 27, 1952.

Growing up under that shared roof until our own departure for Canada in 1970 made my grandparents a second set of parents to me. My father had left for Canada in 1968 to establish a foothold, and the rest of us followed two years later when I was eighteen. After my grandmother passed away, Aunt Vincenza moved in with her family so Nannu Joseph would never be alone. Stepping back into that beloved house during visits in 1974 and 1980, embraced once more by my grandfather, are memories etched permanently in my mind. The house and its neighbouring building have since been demolished to make way for modern flats, but the life, warmth, and laughter that filled them never faded.

Every face looking out from this picture is gone now. Even Aunt Carmen—the unborn child whose quiet arrival redirected an entire family tree—lived to eighty-nine before passing away in Canada in 2019. I look at this portrait often. It preserves my mother in the sweet innocence of girlhood, but it also speaks to the fragility of human plans. A single, unexpected heartbeat kept our roots in Malta, reshaping the destiny of generations who followed.

Two controversial rulers. Two gripping stories.



Sir Gerald Strickland
1861-1940



Sir Thomas Maitland
1759 – 1824

Discover the hidden intrigues of Malta's colonial past

Lord Strickland, plots and intrigue in colonial Malta by Victor Aquilina is a new title published by Kite Group. The first edition of the title was published in 2019 and was sold out in a few weeks.

Lord Strickland, by far one of the most outstanding political figures in colonial Malta, was as controversial as socialist firebrand Dom Mintoff. Most of the politicians of his time have long faded into history but Strickland's name still resonates today. This work explores the political plots hatched against him and gives a blow-by-blow account of the controversies and political intrigue that plagued his turbulent life. Strickland's contribution to Malta's social and political advancement is often undervalued, mainly because of myths and unfounded claims that overshadowed much of his work.

Strickland served in no fewer than four governorship posts in the colonial service. When he was the island's prime minister, he was, for a time, concurrently a member of two parliaments, Malta's legislative assembly and the House of Commons. What dominates Strickland's life is a bitter dispute with the Church over its interference in politics. It was one of the most classic clashes between Church and State in modern times, directly involving Vatican and British chancelleries in power politics. This work goes deeply into claims, proved to have been unfounded, that Strickland was a Freemason, and reconstructs the attempt on Strickland's life at the law courts in 1930. History has been generally unkind to Strickland. This re-evaluation of his political life and times, anchored firmly in the context of the time, attempts to put him in a better light.

Another new title by the same author is *How King Tom ruled Malta and the Ionian Islands, Rivalry for power in Mediterranean*. There can hardly be a more eccentric British colonial administrator than Thomas Maitland, Malta's first governor and lord high commissioner of the Ionian Islands. He wasn't called King Tom or an ape of Napoleon out of admiration or respect, but for the despotic manner he ruled Malta and the Ionian Islands. Maitland lies buried - unwept, unhonoured, unsung, and unnoticed - in one of Malta's iconic spots, a garden perched high on top of a mighty bastion overlooking the Grand Harbour. Maitland ruled at a time when Britain had become the dominant naval power in the Mediterranean. He brooked no interference and, though he piloted important reforms in all the places he governed, his work is overshadowed by his ruthlessness. This account, which may be regarded as a sequel to the author's *Napoleon: 'Malta or War'*, also brings out episodes that drew sharp criticism, such as the oppressive manner in which he enforced London's policy of neutrality in the Greek war of independence.

His little-known love affair with a Sinhalese gypsy dancer in Ceylon, which he governed before moving to the Mediterranean, gives a human touch to a story of a colonial administrator who, regardless of his good and bad points, has left a mark on the history of Malta and the Ionian Islands.

Signed copies of the titles will be available at the Book Festival between 4 and 8 November at MFCC Ta' Qali or by visiting www.kitegroup.com.mt



Iz-Zija giet tarana mil-Kanada!

Niftakar sew li l-biki li ser tiġi tarana z-zija tal-Kanada kien jibda' appuntu malli n-Nanna kienet tirċievi l-ittra b'din l-aħbar.
In-Nanna kienet toqgħod tistenna xi offerta tat-Telemalta, ħalli tkun tista' ċċempel liz-zija bl-irħis. Ma kienx jeżisti Internet u Messanger, allura telefonata ma' kienetx tkun xi ħaġa ta' ftit flus. Konna nismgħu fuq it-televixin li għal xi ġurnata jew tnejn telefonati għal barra kienu ser jorħsu. U peress li l-prezz kien ikun bil-minuta, allura in-Nanna kienet tagħmel sverjalin ċkejken ħdejha, ħalli t-telefonata iddum għaxar minuti bil-ħin. Xejn aktar u xejn anqas!
Nerġgħu għal ittra. Peress li n-Nanna ma kienetx taf taqra, allura kienet tistenna lil xi ħadd minn uliedha ħalli jaqralha l-ittra. Avolja l-istint tal-omm kien ikun hemm, u allura kienet xorta tiftaħ l-ittra u tibda' tolfoq hi u tħares lejn dik il-kitba. Xi ħaġa li ta tifel li kont ma stajt nifhimha qatt għaliex dak il-biki kollu!
Il-ġurnata li kienet ser tasal għid li kien meqjus bħala avveniment grandjuż għal familja kollha. Minn sbieħ Alla konna nqumu ħalli nlestu ma jmurx l-ajruplan jasal xi tlett siegħat qabel! Il-paniku kollu kien iqum u għid li d-dar ġenn sħiħ. Min iċempel l-ajruport ħalli jara fi x'ħin nieżel l-ajruplan (daqs li kieku fil-ħames minuti li għaddew inbidel xi ħaġa!) u min jara li ma nħallu lil ħadd l-art, speċjalment lin-Nanna!
Il-wasla tagħna ġewwa l-mitjar (l-antik) ta' Ħal-Luqa kienet evidenti. Folla mdaqqsa daqs li kieku ġej Elvis għal erba t'ijiem ġo Malta! Is-sala prinċipali ma kienetx kbira u ftit nies ukoll kienu jagħmlu konfusjoni. Kif jinstema' l-avviz li l-ajruplan niżel, konna dritt ġirja mmorru lejn il-gallarija, li dak iż-żmien kienet fil-miftuħ u bla biża' ta' xejn stajt tixxabbat u tiprova tkun tal-ewwel li tilmaħ liz-zija nieżla minn fuq l-ajruplan. Jien ta' żgħir li kont, ħana drabi kont nispiċċa wiċċi mal-ħadid, u niġi nitmellaħ minn dak kollu li qed jiġri madwari! Kif x ħadd miz-zijiet jilmaħa, għid li ser jibda' skoss għajjat, tixjir u biki... kollha fl-istess ħin. Ħsejjes strambi li ma tafx humiex xi ħaġa ta' ferħ jew tal-biża', pero l-kbir kien ikun għadu ġej!
Minn hemm kollha kemm aħna ġirja isfel ma tmurx tilħaq toħroġ, bin-Nanna bil-pass meqjus tagħha tiprova tlaħħaq ma kuħadd.
Ftit minuti wara, konna narawha ħierġa u l-biki jiżdied tant li ma tibqax tisma'. Minn hemm kienu jibdew għaxar minuti sħaħ ta' bews, tgħannieq u aktar bews, fost il-ħafna biki. In-Nanna bi kważi ħass ħażin kienet tieħu nofs dak il-ħin waħidha. Imbgħad iz-zija tibda iddur in-neputijiet wieħed wieħed, u waħda waħda.

U fost il-ħafna lataniji ta' "ara kemm kiber" u dak "kemm inbidel" u li "lanqas kont ngħarfek", kien jibda' ukoll il-ġbid ta' wiċċi u bews hi hu tgħajjatli bħala "Danny Boy"! Kienu ftit minuti imma biżżejjed sabiex nispiċċa b'nofs wiċċi aħmar bit-tiġbid u nofs l-ieħor bil-lipstick kollu li kien ikollha z-zija!



Dak l-imbierek vjaġġ fuq ix-xarabank

L-avventura, jekk ridt issejħilha hekk, kienet tibda' malli tasal fuq l-istejġ f'xemx tiżreġġ. Meta fl-aħħar kien jasal ix-xarabank, għid li ser jwaqqaf f'nofs ta' triq, b'serbut karozzi jistennew bħal ċwieċ warajh. Għadek bil-flus f'idejk, ikun diġa beda jżarżar il-gear lever u karozza tibda' tiċċaqlaq ma' kull skoss. Ridt iżżomm sod għax malajr terġa tispiċċa fuq l-istaffa u taqa' 'l barra.

Meta fl-aħħar tħallas, u tispiċċa b'xi ħaġa nieqsa fil-bqija, tieħu l-biljett, u tmur tipprova ssib postok. Bejn tisbita u oħra, fl-aħħar tasal jew fuq is-seat ta' fuq ir-rota, jew ta' wara nett. It-tnejn li huma kienu jġibulek il-warrani mbenġġel. Pero kien l-aħjar post fejn stajt tosserva dik l-avventura kollha.

Mas-seat ta' quddiemek, skoss tħażżiż fuq dak iħobb lil dik, kliem ħażin u biljetti antiki mwaħħla. Taħt is-seat xi xkupa u barmil lesti għat-tindifa għal meta ix-xufier jispiċċa r-ronda tiegħu.

Minn hemm kont tosserva aħjar ix-xufier. Raġel mdaqqas, fanatiku ta' Elvis. Tinduna mil-ħafna stampi u madwaru u mill-istil uniku ta' xagħru. Quddiemu xi gaġġa żgħira b'verdun jgħanni ma' kull ħoss. Fuq rasu niċċa żgħira, u fost ħafna santi tal-mejtin, ismijiet ta' tfal u żwiemel, kont issib il-kliem 'Verbum Dei Caro Factum Est'.

Il-passiġġieri kienu uniċi ukoll. Jekk kont taqbad tal-linja skond is-siegħa, għid li kuljum kont ser tara l-istess nies, bilqiegħda fl-istess post. Xi tnejn jitlewmu fuq it-tieqa jekk tkunx miftuħa jew magħluqa, xi oħra tgħid ir-rużarju b'vuċi għolja, u xi ieħor mejjet nin-ngħas u rasu titbandal ma' kull skossjatura.

Minn stejġ għal ieħor kienu jibqgħu telgħin in-nies. Xarabank ma jiflaħx aktar u xorta jibqa' jgħabbi. Umbad meta xi ħadd jiġbed il-famuż ħabel u ddoqq il-qanpiena mżarżra, għid li kien iqum putiferju sħiħ sakemm dak il-miskin isib triqtu 'l barra, fost l-għajjat li għadu ma' nizilx kulħadd!Mal-wasla l-Belt, kulħadd jibda' jqum, ħafna qabel tal-linja issib postha u tintefa' l-makna. Kaos sħiħ kulħadd irid jiżel l-ewwel wieħed.

Jien, biex neħles minn dak il-ġenn, kont naqbeż mil-bieba ta' wara... fost il-kliem ħażin u elf aġġettiv ieħor tax-xufier. Fuq din, tlaqna nixtru maqrut!

.



Ernest Ferrante · ·

The President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy's opinion on Malta was characterised by deep respect for its history and a supportive, if cautious, approach to its then-imminent independence. Because Kennedy was the first Catholic U.S. President, he was exceptionally popular in Malta—a predominantly Catholic nation—and he utilised this cultural connection to strengthen ties during the height of the Cold War.

Key Interactions and Views

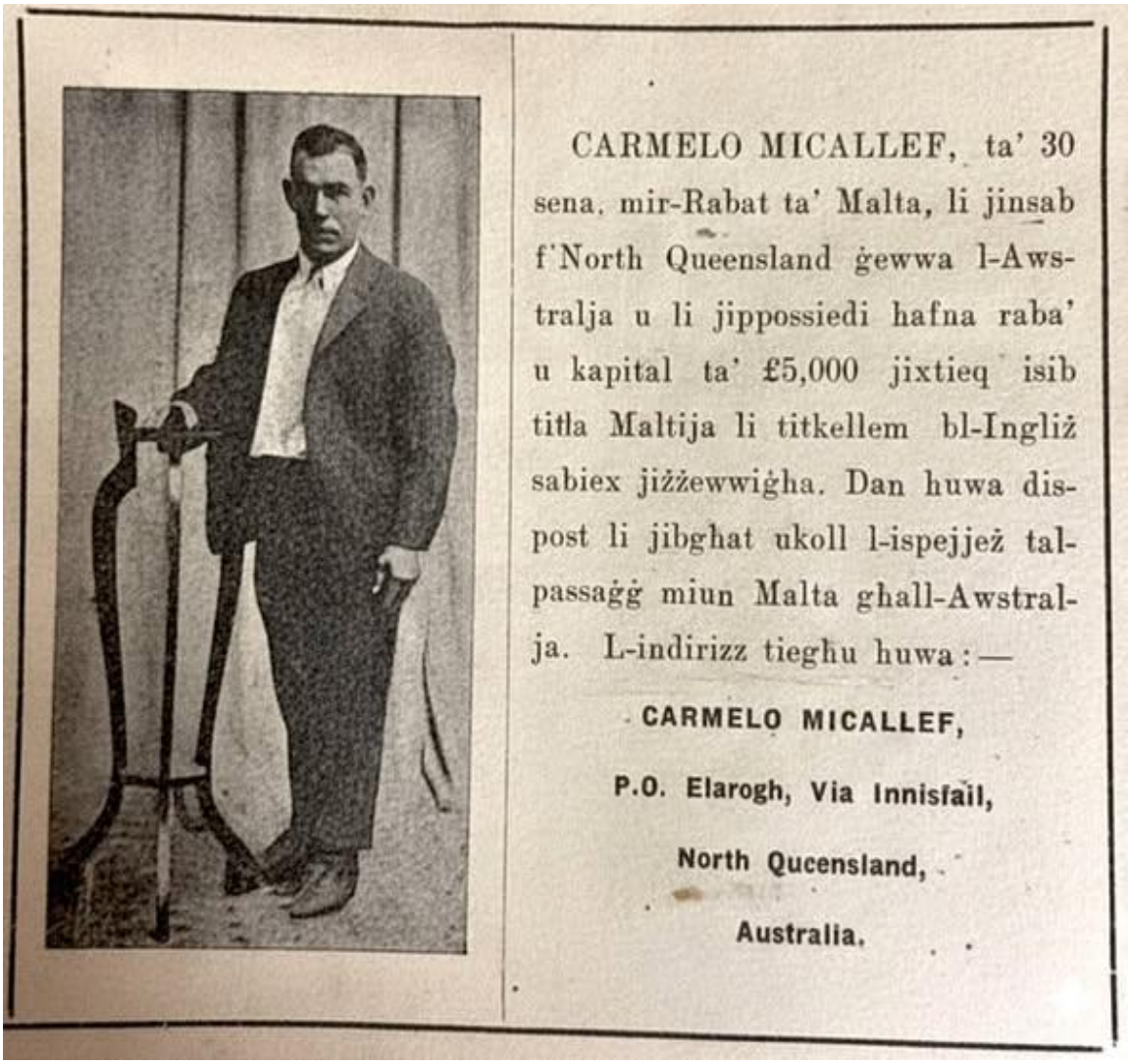
Praise for Wartime Heroism: Kennedy famously described Malta as a "beacon of hope" and a "tiny bright flame in the darkness," referring to the island's endurance under siege during World War II. He believed Malta's history of "human fortitude" was a gift to civilisation that would be read with "wonder and gratitude" by future generations.

The 1963 White House Meeting: On September 19, 1963—just two months before his assassination—JFK hosted Maltese Prime Minister George Borg Olivier in the Oval Office. This was a landmark event for Malta, as it was still a British colony at the time. Borg Olivier later noted that he was "impressed by Kennedy's depth of knowledge" regarding Maltese affairs.

Support for Sovereignty: Kennedy viewed Malta through the lens of his broader "New Frontier" foreign policy, which sought to support decolonisation while ensuring new states did not fall under Soviet influence. While Malta sought financial aid and a potential U.S. military base to replace British presence, the Kennedy administration remained supportive of its independence (eventually achieved in 1964) without making immediate, binding military commitments.

Legacy in Malta

The Maltese people felt a unique kinship with Kennedy. Following his death, a national campaign led to the creation of Kennedy Grove (a memorial garden in Salina), which stands today as a testament to the high regard in which he was held.



CARMELO MICALLEF, ta' 30 sena, mir-Rabat ta' Malta, li jinsab f'North Queensland ġewwa l-Awstralja u li jippossiedi hafna raba' u kapital ta' £5,000 jixtieq isib tifla Maltija li titkellem bl-Ingliż sabiex jiżżewwiġha. Dan huwa dispost li jibgħat ukoll l-ispejjeż talpassaġġ miun Malta għall-Awstralja. L-indirizz tiegħu huwa:—

CARMELO MICALLEF,

P.O. Elarogh, Via Innisfail,

North Qucensland,

Australia.

THIS FARMER FROM QUEENSLAND WANTED A WIFE

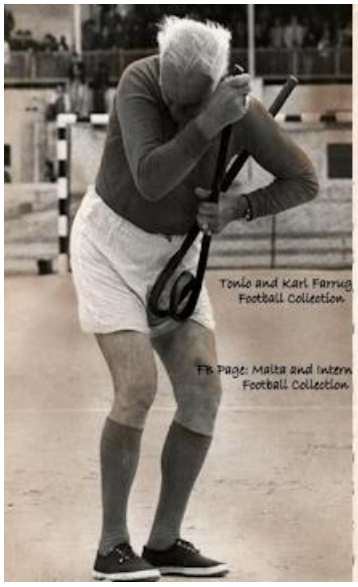
This is a fascinating historical snippet! It appears to be an advertisement or a notice from a newspaper, likely dating back to the early 20th century.

Historical Context

This image captures a specific moment in the history of the **Maltese diaspora**. In the early 1900s, many Maltese men migrated to North Queensland to work in the sugarcane industry. Because these communities were often male-dominated, it wasn't uncommon for successful migrants to reach out to their homeland through newspapers to find a partner.

Full Translation

CARMELO MICALLEF, 30 years old, from Rabat, Malta, who is currently in North Queensland, Australia, and who possesses a lot of land and a capital of £5,000, wishes to find a Maltese girl who speaks English in order to marry her. He is also willing to send the travel expenses from Malta to Australia. His address is:
CARMELO MICALLEF, P.O. Elarogh, Via Innisfail, North Queensland, Australia.





ANTHONY ZARB "IL-WALKER" TA' MALTA

1904 – 1993)

While leafing through the papers from days of old, quite often, we came across an advert on the papers from Anthony Zarb known as 'Il-Walker' challenging servicemen and civilians for a competition of strength by bending iron rods. In this field Walker feared no-one.

Through the years he had become synonymous with these shows of strength as he had been doing this since 1927. It all started when he attended a display of iron bending given by an Italian artist who was in Malta. An impromptu competition took place and Il-Walker, an exceptionally strong man, won it easily.

This encouraged him to start giving shows himself. He did this for charity without ever charging any money although he always enjoyed the presentation of a Silver Cup as a memento of the occasion. Some of these Cups he donated to Valletta FC, whenever his football favourites won an MFA honour.

IL-WALKER AND THE CITY FOOTBALL FANS

Although they are the one and same person few people know Anthony Zarb and many people know 'Il-Walker'. At least people who used to go to the Gzira Stadium had grown familiar with Il-Walker dressed in white shorts and T-Shirt giving an iron-bending show during the interval of football matches.

He always used the same pattern. First he would show to all present a straight iron rod about two inches thick. Then he would proceed to bend it to an acute angle by putting force against his knee. Then he would bend it further with his own bare hands to form a circle and finally he would make further force against his thigh to get the ends of each side of the iron bar coming straight out from the circle. (Exactly like the iron bar shown in the pic).

When he would be done and over with his show he would jog around the football field and upon arriving in front of the Valletta football fans, his own friends, they would cheekily whistle and jeer. In reply 'Il-Walker' would slap his own backside in their direction.

All in good humour. He was one of them. He used the same private to go to the Stadium and return back home.

HIS PRIVATE LIFE

Il-Walker was from Il-Mandraġġ. He was born on 14th July 1904 at Strada Marsamxetto to Carmelo and Paola and was the eldest of eight siblings. After attending school at 'Il-Baviera' he did some odd jobs (from waiter to electrician) but his main employment was with Camilleri Confectionery (Camilleri tal-Ħelu) at Strada Mercanti.

It was at his workplace that he obtained his nick of Walker as once he did an errand in no time at all. What jokingly started as 'Qisek Johnnie Walker kemm tiġri' became an addition to his name which he carried throughout his life. Actually he was more popular as 'Il-Walker' rather than Anthony Zarb.

After retirement age, well into his seventies, he was a regular fixture at the morning flea market in Valletta where he would sell his home-made pastries to customers.

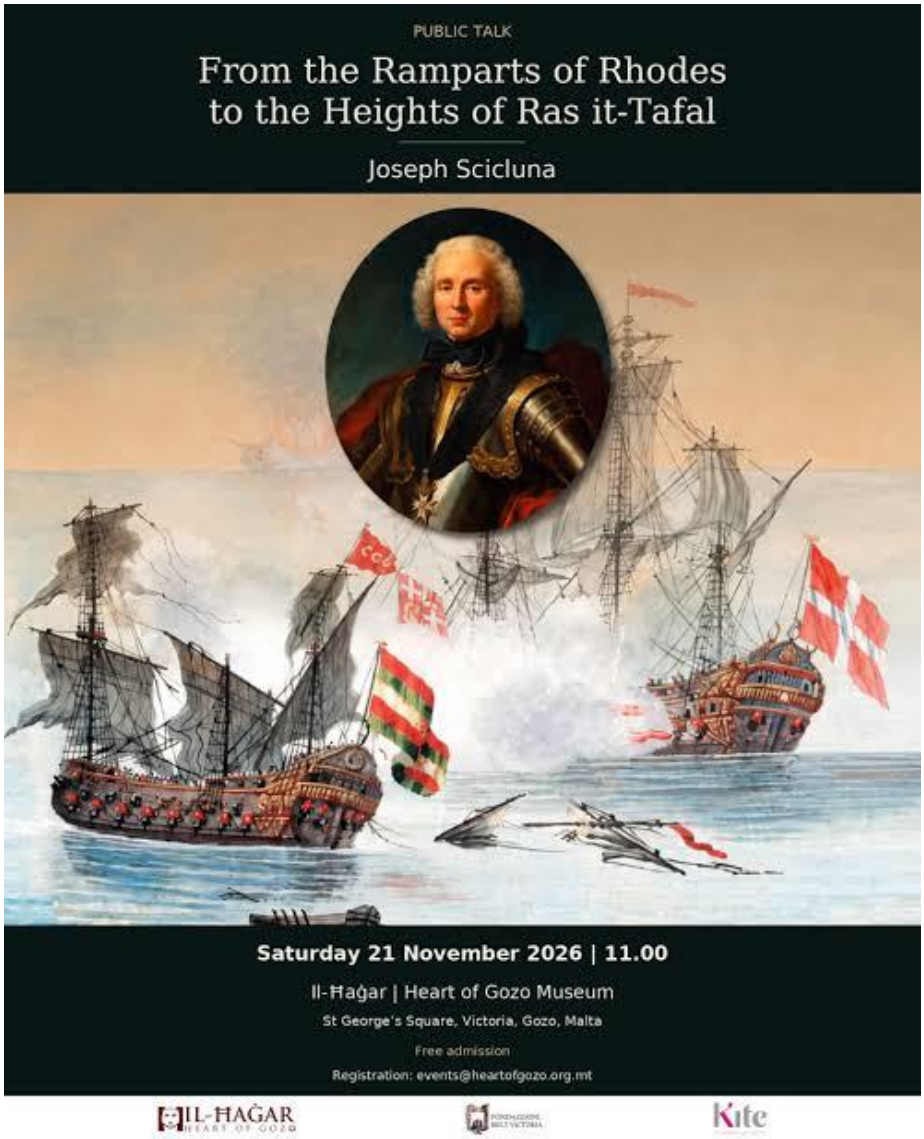
Walker was married twice. His first wife Karmena Cutajar died at the young age of 29. He later married his second wife Stella Muscat and went to live at il-Kamrata. In all Walker had 26 children – seven from his first marriage.

THE 10TH LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT (L.A.A.) BATTERY OF THE ROYAL MALTA ARTILLERY - 1955-56 WINNERS OF THE LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE



Picture shows the 10th Light Anti-Aircraft (L.A.A.) Battery of the Royal Malta Artillery, known simply as Tenths for short, in one of their standard formations during the season 1955-56 in which they won the Army League and Cup Double. From left to Right, numbered for ease of reference, we have:
Standing: 1 Gunner Formosa, 2 Gunner Tony Buttigieg (Floriana FC), 3 Gunner Leli Borg Bonaci (Balzan Youths FC), 4 goalkeeper Gunner Ninu Micallef (Rabat FC), 5 Gunner Ġużi Grech 'Tichy' (Valletta FC) and 6 Gunner Leli Attard 'L-Għawdxi' (Hibernians FC).
Squatting: Gunner Frans Bonnici 'Lula' (Birkirkara FC), Gunner Salvu Scicluna 'L-Iscotch' (St. George's FC), Lance Bombardier Tony Cauchi (Floriana FC), Gunner Charlie Bennetti 'Najsu' (Floriana FC) and Gunner Żarenu Alamango (Floriana FC).

help us DONATE to help you
Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
Account No. - 00502597 Name - Frank Scicluna
FOR OVERSEAS DONORS - CommBank's BIC/SWIFT Code: CTBAAU2S



KNIGHTS' JOURNEY FROM RHODES TO GOZO IN A PUBLIC TALK AT IL-ĦAĠAR

In the next public talk at Il-Ħaġar Museum, taking place on Saturday 21 November at 11.00, Gozitan historian and author Joseph Scicluna delves into the evolving fortunes of the Order of St John across two transformative periods.

Beginning with the 1522 Siege of Rhodes, he will discuss the Knights' defence of the Aegean stronghold against Sultan Suleiman and the Order's gruelling eight-year exile before re-establishing themselves in Malta in 1530. The narrative then moves on to the eighteenth century, highlighting how the modernisation of the Hospitaller fleet enabled naval commander Jacques François de Chambray to amass a fortune from Mediterranean victories. Driven to protect Gozo's vulnerable population,Chambray personally funded the construction of Fort Chambray at Ras it-Tafal in 1749, leaving an enduring lithic legacy.

This event is being held in collaboration with Kite Group and, as always, admission is free.

Il-Ħaġar Museum's full events programme for 2026-2027 may be accessed here: https://heartofgozo.org.mt/il-hagar-events-programme-september-26-august-27/



The Maltese Center

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday November 15th

11:30 am

*subject to change

MEET & GREET

H.E. Marco Micallef

Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the United States of America



The committee and the members of the Maltese Center are honored to welcome Ambassador Micallef together with the delegation to the Center.

ALL ARE WELCOME

www.themaltesecenter.com
27-20 Hoyt Avenue South
Astoria, New York 11102