

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

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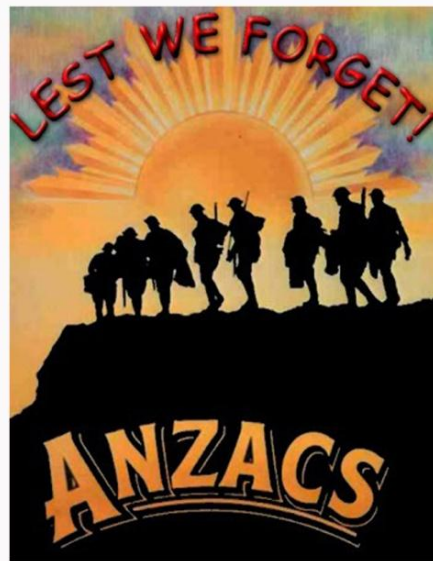


BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MALTESE ALL OVER THE WORLD

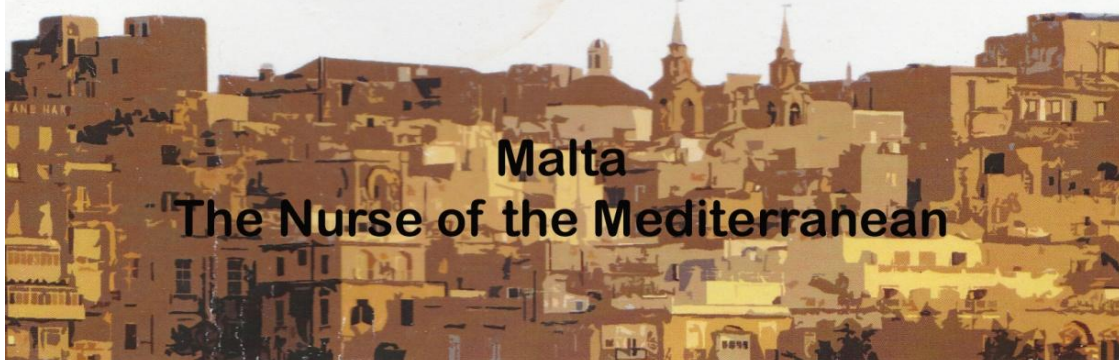
ANZAC DAY

MALTA - AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND

25 April 2016



We Will Remember Them



THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA



Charles Bonavia



Anthony Xuereb



Waldemar Beck

by Gioconda S. Schembri

The book 'Three Anzacs from Malta, a true story of friendship, love and loss' recounts the journey of Charles Bonavia, Waldemar Beck and Anthony Xuereb, three young Maltese men, who leave their small island for Australia, hoping for a better future on the other side of the world. They soon settle in their adopted home, securing good jobs, forging new friendships, and finding love.

But their carefree days are not to last as the sombre clouds of a global war darken their world. The three of them would be thrust in one of the deadliest conflicts humankind had ever seen, which would destroy a whole generation of youth.

From the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta to the vast Australian continent, to the unforgiving slopes of Gallipoli, and all the way to the muddy trenches in Flanders, 'Three Anzacs from Malta' follows these young men as they carve out their destinies. It is a timeless story about migration, the heartache of separated families, war and loss, out of which no one emerges unscathed. But it is mainly a tribute to the tenacity of the human spirit, even in the face of enormous adversity, and a celebration of the virtues that transcend borders and time: courage, friendship and love.

The book includes photographs, extracts from a war diary and original letters.

Publication date: May 2016 Genre: Non fiction

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gioconda S. Schembri née Mifsud was born in Malta. After graduating as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta, she joined the public service and for three years she served at the Malta High Commission in Canberra as First Secretary, and also as Acting High Commissioner for several months. Gioconda migrated to Australia in 2002, where she has worked with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Australian Public Service, the Consulate of Malta and as a freelance translator of the Maltese language. Her interests are varied and include history, the theatre, music, literature, international politics, travel and craft. She lives in Melbourne with her husband Darren and son Thomas.





Canadian artist Tom Forrestall will spend two weeks in Malta, interpreting its history through his work

Tom Forrestall, considered by art critics to be one of the 'pillars of Canadian art', is set to visit the Maltese archipelago at the invitation of Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa and the Malta Tourism Authority.

During Forrestall's two week 'Artist in Residence' programme, 10-25 April 2016, the accomplished Canadian artist will create a collection of watercolours featuring Malta's diverse historical and natural landscapes, entitled '18 Days on Malta: Closer Look at 7,000 Years of History in Words & Paint'. Forrestall will be accompanied by his journalist daughter, Monica Forrestall, who will be collaborating on this project by documenting her father's painting expeditions and sites through her photography, videos, writings and blogs.

The painting sites around Malta will include historic buildings and striking natural landscapes in Valletta and Mdina, and on Malta's sister island, Gozo.

Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa will host Tom Forrestall and Monica Forrestall throughout their "Artist in Residence" stay in Malta, and will hold Artist Salons open to guests and the wider public. The Artist Salons will feature Forrestall's paintings of Malta, alongside photos taken of him painting at different locations. In an informal setting, Forrestall will provide comments on his painting style, favourite sites, anecdotes of his stay on the island, and how he has brought Malta's scenery to life in his art.

Forrestall is one of the leading painters associated with the contemporary realism movement of Canada and of the Maritime provinces. Forrestall was born in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia, in 1936 and grew up in Middleton and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where he currently resides and maintains his studio.

Forrestall's career has spanned over fifty years, during which he has received awards including the Order of Canada and several honorary doctorates. His works have been exhibited in museums and public galleries both nationally and internationally in solo and group exhibitions.

In speaking of his Malta project, Forrestall said, "Drawing, watercolour and egg tempera; they all stir a passion, a delight and satisfaction into my creative process. But above all, creating watercolour paintings creates a oneness with a place. Malta, to me, is mysterious, as I've never been there. I will interpret Malta in my own way, while I explore the complex and fascinating history of these islands. I'm thrilled to have this opportunity."

. Paul Bugeja, CEO, Malta Tourism Authority, commented "Malta has attracted many artists in the past, the most famous being Italian painter Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, but none from North America.

"We are confident that the Corinthia Palace Hotel & Spa's Artist in Residence initiative with Tom Forrestall will no doubt attract more amateur painters and art lovers to Malta, adding another dimension to Maltese tourism promotion in the USA & Canada."



MALTA DIARY: A touch of summer already in the air

Albert Fenech

It's only April and Malta and Gozo only experienced a real touch of winter in the middle of last month. Even so, summer is definitely already in the air and the feeling is infectious. The sea is only a stone's throw away wherever you are in these islands and as an island sea-people, the inhabitants make full use of it.

Whether you own a multi-million euro cabin cruiser or yacht or struggle to pull out last year's bathing costume and scrape together a little cash for protective sunblock lotion, it's there to be enjoyed for the three months of summer. Some go even one better and have a swimming pool in their garden as well as a cabin cruiser – but that's life. This is the time to start preparing for picnics, beach parties, barbecues and whatever activity catches your fancy. During the three summer months (that is, June, July and August) the mercury will average 35 degrees Centigrade, months of virtually continual

cloudlessly blue skies and an almost total scarcity of rain. A number of sandy bays absorb the throngs from early dawn to dusk and beyond.



The beaches are small and quickly overflow with people, but there are also expanses of rock beaches and the more discerning get-away-from-the-crowds bracket seek the lonelier and more secluded areas to enjoy the peace and quiet. You might even find areas where nature lovers prefer to be in their birth suit. In recent years diving holidays have become a rage and attract thousands of tourists to many diving schools offering learning with qualified divers and deep sea diving. The relatively free-from-pollution sea enables excellent underwater vision and a number of wrecks

have been submerged to make it more interesting. In addition, the current instability of diving haunts like Egypt, the Red Sea areas and Tunisia have been to Malta's gain. Malta too now has a National Aquarium in Qawra which is a daily magnet for thousands of visitors year round.

These are the months when the islands are bursting with human habitation as the 420,000 population additionally swells with the daily influx of thousands of tourists. The infrastructural strain is enormous, particularly the demand for potable water in an area where rainfall only averages 30 centimetres annually and this year probably less. Reverse osmosis plants are put to operate on a 24/7 basis inducting sea water and filtering it through various processes to achieve potability. Electricity consumption is also at a premium as fridges and deep freezers work overtime and air-conditioners and fans strain the grid 24/7. Tempers are also sky-high as scorching sun and high humidity eclipse normal and logical vision, particularly in extensive traffic jams. Believe me, it's no fun to be stuck in a jam in a car without a/c and without any visible traffic movement! Road rage is never far away.



Gozitan boy, 4, has the makings of a genius

Gabriel Grech can recognise every single country flag

Gabriel Grech attends a science club, is keen on sign language and can recognise every single flag of all countries and territories around the world. He learned how to read and write when he was just two, and at three-and-a-half years of age he was given a reading age of over seven years. Gabriel from Victoria is just four years old. He also has an IQ 139, which is ranked as a 'gifted' IQ, just a few points short of what is ranked as 'genius'.

A 14-minute video has now emerged on YouTube showing Gabriel identifying some 250 flags placed in front of him. The list includes all the sovereign states of the world (around 206) plus all the British, French and US territories as well as other dependencies like Christmas Islands.

Gabriel, who attends the Laura Vicuna school in Victoria can read and write in English and Maltese and is interested in several subjects, his proud grandfather Michael told Times of Malta. "It could be astronomy, geography, history, and more. He is also very good at mathematics." Gabriel with his parents David and Miriam. After attending a science club aimed for four-to-seven year olds, Gabriel went home and asked his father for a book about flags.

"Gabriel is a very inquisitive kid and he wants to know about everything. He is very passionate about planets and the solar system," his father David said. Not happy with learning all about the flags of nations, the child wanted to see the flags of all sovereign states and he kept asking for more.

Realising his intelligence and photographic memory, his parents took him for an IQ test. He scored 139, which is ranked as 'gifted', just a few points of what is described as 'genius'. The test also diagnosed Gabriel with Hyperlexia Type III, which means the child is able to read and write at a level very above his norm. But it also creates problems for Gabriel when he interacts with peers of the same age which means sometimes he feels more comfortable with children of an older age. "When he was still a year old, before he started talking, I taught him some basic sign language like: 'milk', 'mummy' and 'thank you'. Today, three years later he still remembers these signs and although he now speaks fluently he still uses them to emphasise a point," Mr Grech said. Taking the cue from his mother, a teacher, and his father, a scout leader, Gabriel has now learnt a vast vocabulary of Maltese sign language. "We are very happy with Gabriel's quest for knowledge and we encourage him to explore different areas. He astonishes us sometimes with his observations. We are also grateful to his teachers who engage him and stimulate him with his hunger for knowledge." Meanwhile, Gabriel is still yearning to learn more. After memorising all the flags of nations and territories, his father recently introduced him to all the local council flags of Malta and the US.



Pope Francis to visit Greek migrant island on April 16

Pope Francis will visit the Greek island of Lesbos on April 16, the Vatican said today, in a trip aimed at supporting refugees and drawing attention to the front line of Europe's migrant crisis. Hundreds of thousands of refugees, many fleeing the war in Syria, have poured onto the Aegean island over the past year, but, under a contested plan, the European Union started returning newcomers to neighbouring Turkey this month.

The pope has repeatedly spoken out in support of refugees, urging Roman Catholic churches around Europe to take in migrant families. His first trip after he became pontiff in 2013 was to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, which, like Lesbos, has received hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Queen Victoria Building – Sydney - Australia

'The most beautiful shopping centre in the world'

The Queen Victoria Building has been described by Pierre Cardin as "the most beautiful shopping centre in the world". This outstanding example of Byzantine architecture, which occupies an entire city block, was built in 1898 to replace the original Sydney Markets. Later, it accommodated a concert hall, which eventually became the city library.



Ground Floor : Queen Victoria Building, Sydney The building was remodelled in the 1930s and used for different purposes, including municipal offices. In 1984 it was completely refurbished as a shopping centre, with more than 200 shops. The renovations, by the Malaysian company Ipoh Garden Berhad, were highly imaginative and thoughtful. Most important, they retained the turn-of-the-century charm of the building.

The building has a series of domes and domelets with exquisite stained glass windows and extensive wood panelling throughout.



Hanging Clock : Queen Victoria Building, Sydney There is a marvellous hanging clock that displays a series of mechanically moving tableaux of British kings and queens every hour on the hour. This "exhibition" is heralded by loud trumpeters and ends with the beheading of Charles I. Permanent and temporary exhibitions have a home at different points on each level and include replicas of the British crown jewels and a highly ornamental, full-scale oriental coach. The building accomodates a series of royal paintings.

The building is a major attraction for both visitors and residents and is open every day. Shops with Old-World shopfronts are located on three levels and here you will find some of the most interesting shopping in Sydney, shops such as New Guinea Arts, which has a remarkable array of native artefacts from New Guinea.



CATCH OF THE DAY!!

The rain was pouring down. And there, standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub, was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water. A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?" "Fishing," replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gentleman says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me." In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their guinness, the gentleman cannot resist asking, "So, how many have you caught today?" "You're the eighth." says the old man.....



Stalactites and stalagmites take on a ghostly form in the Imperial Cave, one of the "show caves" in the Jenolan Caves complex. Photo: Toby Hudson via Wikimedia Commons

At 340 million years old, Jenolan Caves is the world's oldest open-cave system

ABOUT THE JENOLAN CAVES

The caves were created millions of years ago through a complex relationship between water, rock, atmosphere and the lifeforms that inhabit the environment. The local

Aboriginal people first named them "Binnomea" or "dark places". Since their discovery by European settlers in the 1830s, more than 40kms of multi-level passageways have been explored and mapped. The Jenolan Caves, situated a short drive west of the [Blue Mountains](#), is among the world's most-famous and most-visited cave systems.

The caves are a network of ancient limestone tunnels, subterranean rivers and caverns richly draped with exotic mineral deposits. [Research](#) by the The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) dates the clay in the caves to be about 340 million years old, which makes them the oldest known and dated open-cave system on the planet.

Paths, walkways and lighting were first installed in the eight "show caves" and other minor caves in the late 1800s. The walkways and lighting systems have been periodically updated as a steady stream of both Australian and international visitors have made their way to the caves over the past 150 years.

Coloured lights define and enhance the most spectacular stalactites and stalagmite formations found in the caves' chambers. Some of the chambers are vast. The Cathedral Chamber in the Lucas Cave, for instance, is so big it is used for wedding ceremonies. The acoustics in the chamber are so good that recitals are held there. Tours of the 11 caves, through three kilometres of paths, are conducted each day (except Christmas Day), starting at 10am. Visitors pay to visit a single cave or buy passes to multiple caves. Some caves are easy to walk through while others are more physically demanding, but cave and tour options have been devised to suit all ages and levels of fitness. Tours stop running by 5pm.

The Jenolan Caves are 175 km west of Sydney and 30km west of Katoomba and are part of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area. Trips to the caves by commercial tour operators are run from both Sydney and Katoomba.

To reach the Jenolan Caves by car, visitors travel along a small road that winds through picturesque bushland until arriving at the Grand Arch, an archway and tunnel cut into a huge rock formation. Six of the cave tours leave from points within the Grand Arch tunnel. The 80-metre-long tunnel opens into a chamber surrounded by steep bushland and rock formations known as the Devil's Coach House.

Here there is a tiny village of sorts with the main man-made feature being Jenolan Caves House, a huge, four-storey hotel complex built in 1896 which was designed in the English Domestic Revival style popular in London near the turn of the century. The impressive structure is also regarded as being in the Federation Arts and Crafts style. Caves House still functions today as a large guest house providing tourist accommodation. The dining room in Caves House is as big as some of the caves' larger chambers.

The caves that comprise the Jenolan Caves cave complex are:

The Lucas - The Lucas Cave, opened in 1860, contains the Cathedral Chamber, which is more than 50 metres (160 ft) high, and the Exhibition Chamber, which hosts the Broken Column formation. The Lucas is so big that it can accommodate tours of 65 people at any one time.

The Chifley - The Chifley Cave was the first cave in the world to be lit by electric light when it was opened in 1880. Historic coloured lights can still be seen in two of the cave's chambers.

The Imperial - Opened in 1879, the Imperial Cave contains some of the nation's best fossil deposits of animals and marine creatures. The Imperial Cave has the fewest steps of all the caves.

The Jubile - The Jubilee, opened in 1803, is the longest of the show caves. Tours to this cave run for much longer than others partly due to the length of the cave system and partly because it is further away from the other caves.

The Orient - The Orient is the most beautiful of all the caves. It was opened in 1904 and contains some of the best formations of all the cave systems.

Ribbon Cave - The Ribbon Cave, opened in 1904, is resplendent with "ribbon" helectites.

River Cave - The River cave was opened in 1903 and contains some spectacular formations, including the Minaret, Grand Column, Queen's Canopy and River Styx. In the early part of the 19th century, visitors had to climb into a small boat to cross the river. A concrete bridge now stands in that spot. The River Cave tour is the most demanding of the cave tours.

Temple of Baal Cave - The Temple of Baal, opened in 1904, derives its name from the biblical story of Baal as well as other mythology. One of its attractions is a nin-metre shawl formation known as the Angel's Wing.

Pool of Cerberus Cave - The Pool of Cerberus, opened in 1903, has the Bath of venus as its major formation as well as the underground river that flows into the Pool of Cerberus. Tours are restricted to eight people.

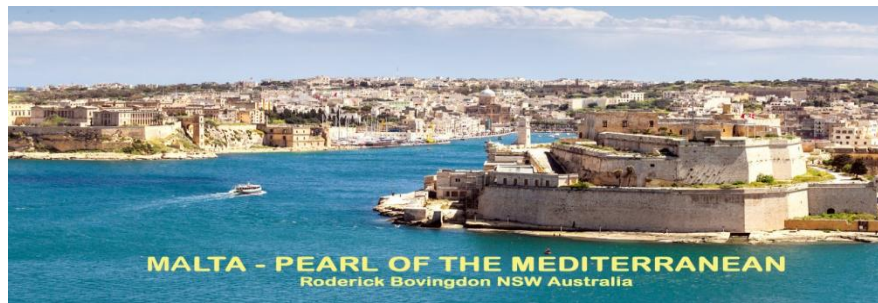
Nettle Cave - One of the first caves opened to the public, in 1838, the Nettle Cave is known for its "crayfish backs" formations shaped by light and wind, which are thought to be more than 20,000 years old.

Pearl of the Mediterranean by Roderick Bovingdon

*Fair maiden to the treach'rous
sea,
from centuries of old,
renowned!
When Saul encountered your
safe ground,
it was to him no tragedy.*

*Phoenicia, Carthage, Rome
and Greece
journeyed forth, hoping to find,
your golden treasures here
enshrined,
through time that knew both
war and peace.*

*It was not for Turk or Knight,
nor for Englishman to claim.
No one ever could lay waste
to this Isle of God's delight.
From ever knowing worldly
fame!
In time of peace! In time of
haste.*



I don't quite remember when these few lines were put to paper. But I do know they are amongst my earliest attempts at versifying my youthful memories of a place I once called home. My age would have been around seventeen; a mere twelve months or so after my arrival in the great land Down Under; Terra Australis.

Labelling these childhood and early youth recollections of Malta as nostalgia, is a far too simplistic and frivolous an appreciation. It ignores one's intricate involvement in the essence of what Malta represented in my youthful mind.

Over half a century later here I am, once again, expressing the same sentiments of the deepest respect and devotion for this tiny spec of land; a country that in its own way has contributed - and continues to contribute unabated - to the general good of humanity far in excess of its relative size.

Hence, now well into my seventh decade of life's journey, it gives me untold gratification to publicly reiterate my respect and devotion towards this minuscule land that moulded me into the individual I am today.

May ancient and modern Malta continue to ride the waves of time ad infinitum whilst I and those hundreds of thousands who parted these shores forever, look back at her with pride and pleasant memories.

MALTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
马耳他中国友好协会

Who we are and what we do



The Malta China Friendship Society (M.C.F.S.) was set up in 1973, a year after Malta and China established diplomatic relations. At that time there were those in Malta who either for political reasons or because they had a genuine fear, were spreading lies about the gentle and peaceful Chinese people. Mr. Reno Calleja, an upcoming politician and a journalist by profession, was joined by a group of Maltese people who believed that the best way to combat prejudice against the Chinese people was through people to people contact.



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It is for this reason that they set up the Malta China Friendship Society. During the past three decades the M.C.F.S. was instrumental in bringing to the Maltese the richness and beauty of Chinese art and culture. Various artists, acrobatic troupes, dancers and performers were invited to Malta with the help of the Chinese Embassy and the Maltese Government. Almost every year the M.C.F.S. and the various Friendship Associations in many provinces in China exchange delegations. The M.C.F.S. is a voluntary non-Government funded cultural organization. It forms part of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries which is based in Beijing. When a few years ago the Chinese Government opened the Chinese Cultural Centre in Valletta, the first in Europe, many thought that the M.C.F.S. will die a natural death. Instead, time has shown that the Malta China Friendship Society and the Chinese Cultural Centre co-operate and compliment each other in their activities.



The organization is managed by an Executive Committee elected by the members every two years during a General Conference. Membership is open to everyone.

http://www.maltachinaonline.org/images/MCFC_1985.jpg This is a historic photograph taken in 1985 when the then Maltese Prime Minister Dr.Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, officially opened the present premises of the Malta China Friendship Society, at 62, Triq San Kristofru, Valletta. *From left to right: - Marija Camilleri, Joe Cutajar, Charles Farrugia, John Abela, Marija Cassar, Reno Calleja (President of the M.C.F.S.), the Hon. Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, Charles Mizzi (first President of the M.C.F.S.), the Chinese Ambassador H.E. Hua Renqin, Joe Vella, John Saliba, Tessie Scicluna and Fredrick Cutajar.*



In an impressive ceremony on the the 8th of September 2015 at the famous Shangri La Hotel of Shanghai, former Labour Minister Mr. Reno Calleja was awarded The White Magnolia Prize. This award was conferred to Mr.Calleja by Mr.Zhang Xiosong, Director of Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office. Mr.Calleja was the only one of three foreigners living outside Shanghai awarded this prestigious

prize. Director Zhang stated that the medal was being conferred on Mr Calleja in appreciation of his valuable support to Shanghai development and outstanding contribution to the friendly relations between Shanghai and Malta.



Five-Year-Old Girl Going Blind Meets Pope

Francis strokes Lizzy Myers' face and gives her a rosary as she ticks off a major bucket list item before she loses her sight. Lizzy and her family, of Ohio, were granted a special audience with the pontiff at St Peter's

Photo: Five-Year-Old Sick American Girl Meets Pontiff

A five-year-old sick US girl has been treated to a meeting with Pope Francis. A five-year-old American girl who doesn't realise she is gradually losing her sight to a rare genetic disease has been treated to a meeting with Pope Francis. Lizzy Myers and her family, of Belleville, Ohio, had special seats for the pontiff's general audience at St Peter's on Wednesday.

Francis stroked the little girl's face and gave her a rosary. Steve and Christine Myers said their daughter had just stared at the Pope "with big eyes". 'She was awestruck,' Lizzy's mother said "She was awestruck. She just teared up," Mrs Myers, who is Catholic, told reporters. "To her he's the big

guy in the white hat. He asked us to pray for him and told us he would pray for us.

"I feel an absolute sense of peace. For the first time, I've felt peace." Lizzy doesn't know she suffers from Usher Syndrome Mrs Myers said she and her husband wanted to make sure Lizzy also saw simple things while she could, "like bonfires and fireflies". Their daughter doesn't know she suffers from Usher Syndrome, which will gradually rob her of her sight as well as her hearing.



The Myerses have also visited the Colosseum and zoo in Rome. Following publicity surrounding her diagnosis, the general manager of Turkish Airlines offered Lizzy's family round-trip tickets anywhere in the world. The Myerses chose Rome and they have spent the week in the Italian capital taking in its historic sights as part of a "bucket list", including the Colosseum and a VIP

tour of the zoo.

We would like to thank wholeheartedly all our readers who responded to our little survey. The answers to the three questions were 100% in the affirmative and most of our readers said that they pass on our Newsletter to their family and friends. We do not make fictional numbers but the real truth. We are proud that our journal is read several thousands from all over the world. THANKS TO OUR BEAUTIFUL AND LOYAL READERS. F.L. Scicluna - Editor

“INHEBBEK HEDI” to open the 2nd edition Valetta Film Festival



The second edition of the Valletta Film Festival will open on Friday 3 June 2016 at Pjazza Teatru Rjal with the Malta premiere of the Tunisian multi-award winning feature film 'Inhebbek Hedi', a film attesting to the rebirth of Tunisian cinema.

'Hedi' winner of the prestigious Silver Bear for Best Actor and the Best First Feature Award at this year's Berlin Film Festival, is the debut feature film of Mohamed Ben Attia and features performances by Majd Mastoura, Rym Ben Messaoud and Sabah Bouzouita.

The film is produced by Dora Bouchoucha Fourati and co-produced by the award-winning directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne.

Focusing on the universal themes of personal choice and responsibility, it tells the story of a quiet young man, Hedi, following the path which has been traced out for him. Despite the rapid changes surrounding him, Hedi doesn't expect much from the future and simply glides through life letting others dictate his fate. However, weeks away from an arranged marriage, a love affair with a free-spirited women forces Hedi to make a choice.

The screening of 'Hedi' will take place after the opening ceremony of the film festival.

More details about the opening ceremony will be announced on Friday 29 April 2016. Tickets for the ceremony and this screening will go on sale in May.

Wied il-Lunzjata - il-Gnien tal-Belt Victoria Kav Joe Attard *Victoria Ghawdex*



Hekk kif wieħed iħalli l-knisja u l-kunvent tal-Patrijiet Agostinjani fil-Belt Victoria u jħalli warajh ukoll l-Oratorju Don Bosco, mill-ewwel jaqbad in-niżla bejn ħitan tas-sejjiġegħ li twasslek lejn il-Wied tal-Lunzjata li jiġi taħt ir-riħ tar-raħal ta' Kerċem. F'dan il-Wied issaltan il-ħemda u tidher l-Id setgħana tal-Folqien li toffri s-sbuħija tan-Natura fl-aqwa tagħha.

Dan il-Wied ħa ismu mill-Kappella antika li tiddomina dan il-post li jsaħħar, iddedikata lit-Thabbira tal-Anglu Gabrijel lill-Madonna. Il-Madonna hija dik il-krejtura li giet imħabbra (annunzjata) li kellha ssir Omm il-Feddej. Biż-żmien il-kelma 'annunzjata' saret u daret għall-kelma 'Lunzjata' u baqgħet ġejja sallum. Naħseb li ġara l-istess lill-kelmiet bil-Latin li kien darba qal Pilatu dwar Gesu' wara li dan kien ġie fflagellat u muri lill-poplu: "Ecce Homo". Illum din ix-

xbieha ta' Kristu tant daret u nbidlet fil-kliem li saret "L-Aċċjomu"!

Intant il-festa f'din il-Kappella 'tal-Lunzjata' ssir fil-25 ta' Marzu, propju disa' xhur qabel it-tifkira tat-Twelid ta' Gesu Bambin fl-għar ta' Betlem (il-Millied). Dokumenti qodma juru li din il-kappella ċkejna kienet diġa teżisti fl-1347. Stemma jew aħjar arma tal-familja li kienet tidher fil-faċċata, kienet tgħid li l-kappella kienet benefiċċju rjali mwaqqaf mis-Sinjura Sibilla d'Aragona. Billi meta mietet din is-Sinjura ma kellhiex tfal, il-Kappella waqgħet f'idejn l-Istat u r-Rettur allura kien jintagħżel mill-Viċi Re ta' Sqallija u wara, mill-Gran Mastru.

Il-bini u l-forma tal-Kappella tal-lum imorru lura lejn it-18-il sekl, għalkemm wara t-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija, parti mill-faċċata u s-sagrestija kienu reġgħu nbnew. Uħud jaħsbu li xi għerien li nsibu wara din il-kappella kienu xi darba katakombi Insara. Il-pittura tat-Titular hija xogħol Fra Luca Garnier tal-Ordni ta' San Gwann. Skrizzjoni fuq irħama li għadha tidher fiq il-faċċata tal-Kappella bil-kelmiet: *Non Gode l'Immunita' Ecclesiastica* tixhed li din il-Kappella ma kenitx tgawdi d-dritt bħalma kienu jgawdu oħrajn – jiġifieri li l-Liġi jew l-Awtorita' Ċivili ma kellha l-ebda dritt fuq min ifittex kenn f'Kappelli bħal din. Ta' min jgħid hawnhekk li l-Gvernatur Sir Frederick Ponsonby (1827-1836) kien neħħa dan id-dritt fl-1828.



Matul Marzu naturalment din il-Kappella tkun it-tokk ta' tant Għawdxin li l-ewwel iżuruha fil-festa ta' San Gużepp fid-19 ta' Marzu u mbagħad fil-jiem ta' wara li jwasslu għall-festa tat-Tifkura tat-Thabbira tal-Anglu lil Marija, fil-25 ta' Marzu, meta jinżel ukoll hawnhekk biex jiffunzjona l-Isqof Djoċesan. Illum din il-Kappella tinsab armata sew u għandha diversi benefatturi, fosthom, għal għieħ l-Istorja, missieri, Alla jaħfirlu, li ħadem tista' tgħid l-injam kollu li nsibu mill-għatba 'l ġewwa, kif ukoll Rettur ħabrieċi li dejjem sejjer jistinka biex joffri s-servizz u jżomm il-kappella fi stat tajjeb. Insibu wkoll żewġ statwi sbieħ, waħda ta' San Gużepp u oħra tal-Anglu qed iwassal lill-Madonna l-aħbar li kellha ssir Omm il-Feddej. Din l-istatwa titulari fl-2014 għalqet 60 sena mit-tberik tagħha u kien ħallas għaliha l-benefattur Gużeppi Formosa fi żmien ir-rettorat ta' Dun Mikelanġ Grech.

Wied il-Lunzjata huwa mzejjen bi ħdura mhux tas-soltu u r-raba saqwi u kkurat li nsibu hawn, ma ssibux malajr u ta' spiss fi nħawi oħra ta' gżiritna. L-Għawdxin ta' dari lil dan il-Wied kienu jsibuh bħala l-Ġnien tal-Belt.

Iktar 'l isfel mill-kappella niltaqgħu wkoll ma' Funtana qadima li kienet inbniet minn Ercole Martino Testaferrata, wieħed mir-Retturi tal-Kappella fi żmien il-Gran Mastru Ramon Perellos fl-1698. Il-Funtana toffri ilma ġieri u sabiħ li minnu ta' spiss tara n-nies u t-fal ixarbu wiċċhom biex jiffriskaw xi ffit wara mixja kemm xejn twila biex tasal hawn. Dawn l-aħħar snin il-Kumitat ħabrieċi tal-Banda San Girgor beda wkoll jorganizza attivita' kulturali u rikrejattiva f'dawn l-inħawi matul ir-Rebbiegħa, inkella matul il-Ħarifa, li tidher qed tinżel sewwa mal-poplu tagħna.

Dan il-Wied li jibqa' sejjer sal-bajja tax-Xlendi kien imfittex sew fi żmien il-Gran Mastri tal-Ordni għal kaċċa. Illum ukoll inti u għaddej tara tajr u għasafar jittajru b'mod ħieles b'mod speċjali fix-xhur sbieħ ta' April u Mejju meta l-arja tkun mimlija bl-għana ħelu tal-bibla u l-ispunsun li għandhom id-dritt jgħixu daqs il-kelb, il-qattus jew kwalunkwe' krejatura oħra tal-Ħolqien. Fil-friegħi tas-siġar u z-zkuk imxerrda mal-wied isibu l-kenn tagħhom ukoll il-gamien li jpassu mal-festa liturġika ta' San Gorġ (23 ta' April), meta jingħad li tgħaddi l-ewwel passa.

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Wied il-Lunzjata huwa wieħed minn dawk il-ftit widien li bihom għogħobha zzejjen lil Għawdex Ommna n-Natura, wied imfittex ħafna għal xi passiġġata u tislma żgħira lis-Sinjura tas-Sema. F'dan il-wied il-bniedem isib il-mistrieħ tal-ġisem u tal-moħħ u bla ma jrid jerfa' ħsebijietu lejn Sid il-Ħolqien, għax kulfejn tirfes, kulfejn tmiss, kulfejn tħares, ifakkrek Fih. Jalla nibqgħu nibzġu għalih u nġożzu dak kollu li fih sabiex jibqa' jistħoqqlu l-isem li kienu tawh l-Għawdxin ta' dari meta sejhulu "Il-Ġnien tar-Rabat". B'dawn il-versi li ġejjin ried isellimlu darba fost l-oħrajn il-poeta l-Avukat Gorġ Zammit:-

Is-Sliem għalik! Minn ġenb għall-ieħor, l-għana

Jimla, jidwi, fin-nir tas-sema jdub;

Tgħanni n –nixxi għa qalb il-qasab; jgħannu

l-għasafar u l-werzieq qalb il-ħarrub!

Nagħlaq billi nsellem lil-poplu Ta' Kertċem li tant jgħożż din il-festa kif ukoll lit-Tarxinizi kollha li tant għandhom għal qalbhom din il-ġrajja li kellha tbiddel mil-lejl għan-nhar il-ħajja tax-xebba ta' Nazzaret u ninsab ċert li b'tant ħerqa jkunu qed jistennew il-festa tagħha li huma jagħmlu b'tant pompa lejn l-aħħar ta' Mejju.

NB Din is-sena l-festa kellha ssir it-Tnejn 4 ta' April billi fil-25 ta' Marzu konna qed infakkru l-mewt ta' Kristu u fi treqatna flok l-istatwa mtal-Lunzjata rajna għadd ta' statwi li bejniethom kienu qed idommu l-Passjoni u l-Mewt tal-Imghallem Divin!



19th Annual Hawke Lecture to be delivered by The Reverend Canon Mpho A. Tutu

University of
South Australia



Wednesday 15 June 2016, Adelaide Town Hall

A significant event on The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre calendar, the Annual Hawke Lecture is an opportunity to listen to the views of someone whose experience of human affairs is notable, and whose concerns about our world are truly worthy of consideration.

Continuing in this tradition, we are pleased to announce the 19th Annual Hawke Lecture will be delivered by The Reverend Canon Mpho A. Tutu. The Reverend Canon Mpho A. Tutu is an ordained Episcopal Priest and the founding Director of the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation.

For several years prior to her ordination, Rev. Tutu was Director of the Discovery Program at All Saints Church, a weekday and summer ministry for children in downtown Worcester, Massachusetts. She also worked as the Seminarian Associate at St Michael's-on-the-Heights Church in Worcester.

Rev. Tutu studied and taught in Grahamstown, South Africa, at the College of the Transfiguration, the Provincial Episcopal seminary of Southern Africa. While at the College, she joined the Mother's Union, and worked in both Xhosa- and English-speaking congregations. With a grant from the Episcopal Evangelical Education Society, she initiated a pastoral care ministry for rape survivors and their families.

Rev. Mpho began her ordained ministry at the Historic Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia. She is an experienced public speaker and preacher having addressed groups and congregations as diverse as The National Cathedral in Washington and Mother Bethel AME church in Philadelphia, and St Georges Cathedral in Cape Town. She was the preacher for the Ordination of Bishop Larry Provenzano of Long Island USA. She has also delivered addresses at secular and multi-religious events such as The Annual World Congress of Children's Hospice International and the Women's Club of Richmond.

For five years, Rev. Tutu was Director of the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern African Refugee Scholarship Fund of the Phelps Stokes Fund. This program provided four-year full scholarships to refugees from South Africa and Namibia. Rev. Tutu has worked as a volunteer teaching in an English as a second language (ESL) ministry in Alexandria, VA.

Rev. Tutu holds a Master of Divinity Degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She was awarded a Women Living Religion Fellowship by the MacMillan Center at Yale University in New Haven. Rev. Tutu is a trustee of Angola University. Rev. Mpho Tutu is the Executive Director of the Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, an organisation founded by her father Desmond and mother Leah.

Rev. Tutu co-authored *Made for Goodness* with her father, and *Tutu: The authorised portrait* with Award winning journalist Allister Sparks. They also wrote the foreword to National Geographic's book, *Geography of Religion*. She authored the foreword of *Footprints in the Sand: Caregivers of South Africa* and recently co-authored *The Book of Forgiving* together with her father. Rev. Tutu serves as Patron for the Global Children's Radio Foundation (CRF) and Women's Achievement Network for Disability (WAND). Rev. Tutu is the mother of two daughters, Nyaniso and Onalenna Burris.

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As a token of appreciation we are sending a special and personal certificate to our loyal readers. If you would like to receive one of these certificates please write to me on honconsul@live.com.au

Wollongong – NEW SOUTH WALES - AUSTRALIA



Adventure in Wollongong

There are plenty of opportunities for adventure^[1] activities in and around Wollongong ranging from surfing and swimming to sailing, hang gliding, paragliding, cycling and abseiling. Wollongong is the only place in NSW where you can sky dive^[2] onto the beach.

Wollongong is the third largest city in New South Wales, located just one hour's drive south of Sydney on the South Coast. Travel to Wollongong via the F6 Southern Freeway and pause to admire the panoramic view of the city, its beaches and harbour from Bulli Pass Scenic Reserve^[3]. Alternatively, turn off at the Royal National Park^[4] and follow the scenic coastal drive, the Grand Pacific Drive^[5], that winds its way along the coast to Wollongong.

In a glorious natural setting, Wollongong is fringed by superb beaches, has alfresco dining, a brewery by the beach and plenty of accommodation options that makes it a great base for exploring the region. Things to do in and around Wollongong include skydiving onto the beach, hang-gliding or paragliding, Harley and Ferrari joy rides, and playing golf on a beachside course. Nearby Lake Illawarra^[6] offers a choice of sailing, waterskiing, canoeing and fishing. There are 60kms of cycleways along the coast, so hire a bike and explore Wollongong with the kids.

Don't miss Nan Tien Temple^[7], the largest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere that's just 10 minutes drive from Wollongong. Wander through the pretty gardens, take a guided tour of the temple or stay overnight and experience a taste of the Buddhist way of life. The Wollongong City Gallery^[8] has one of the best regional art collections in NSW with a special focus on colonial and early Australian art, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artefacts, contemporary art, and Asian artefacts.



Wollongong offers a wide variety of accommodation from hotels, bed & breakfasts and apartments to cabins, hostels and camping options.

See the magic and spectacle as over 20 hot air balloons take to the skies each morning and late afternoon in Canowindra every April, over a five day period at the Canowindra Balloon Challenge. The highlight is the Balloon Glow and night markets where you will enjoy local produce, wine, crafts and entertainment culminating in a display as the balloons light up synchronised to music. Whilst there visit the Age of Fishes Museum (home of the State Fossil), wander down the historic main street or enjoy art galleries, wonderful coffee, cellar doors and quirky shopping

The Maltese goat

This breed is known throughout the Mediterranean and it was common for farmers from other countries such as Sardegna, to come and buy goats from Maltese farmers. The Maltese goat is typically black and is renowned for its high yield of milk. Unfortunately, at the moment, there are no 100% pure-bred goats in Malta. However one can still find them in Sardegna in Italy. The drastic decline of this breed from the Maltese Islands was the discovery of Brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*) in the goat's milk by Sir Temi Zammit. A misconception was initiated in that only goats' milk contained the disease this urging Maltese farmers to look for other milk producing farm animals. Infact the government of that time supported this idea by having a programme against goat rearing and proposed a scheme that gave a cow (Holstein Friesian) in exchange for five goats.

The Maltese goat has a white body with long hair, black head and large dropping ears and originated from the Middle East. This breed does not have horns. It is usually raised in small flocks of about 40 - 60 heads. Kidding occurs during the whole year, with a concentration during the months of November and February. Milk production is about 350L with a high fat and protein content, 3.8% and 3.3% respectively.

Due to the lack of pasture land, an open yard system is commonly used for housing goats in Malta. Shelter needs to be provided in case of bad weather. However in countries having a higher availability of pastureland, the extensive production of goats is possible. Housing goats in the dark for several hours each day in the spring and summer months will result in an earlier estrus. Conversely, artificial lighting in the goat barn may delay estrus in autumn.



Maltese - Milk - Seller

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In Malta up to the late forties, the herdsman would take his flock round the village streets where he would milk the goat at one's doorstep. Nowadays the small portable milking machines are preferred. Milking parlors are not commonly used as the number of goats in a flock is usually small.

Goat milk has played an important role in human nutrition for a long time because of its nutritional and dietetic characteristics. The Maltese goat as an indigenous breed, supplied households with milk and before the introduction of the Holstein Friesians, goat milk was the only source of milk.

The importance of goat milk in infant diets is growing probably because goat milk in some cases is

less allergenic than cow milk. Maltese Goat milk has often been processed into cheese. Goat cheese is of a hard-texture, made with full-cream raw milk. Curdling is carried out in woody tubs at 35 °C for 45 min by adding lamb's rennet. The ripening ranges from a few days to some months. Its sensorial profile is particularly appreciated among cheese tasters. An interesting study elaborated the effect of lactation on the flavour of cheese made with raw milk of Maltese goats bred in Sicily (Italy).

The modern goats breeds are said to be reproducing nicely. Although goats have done considerable damage to the local flora in the past, they are more suitable for Malta than cows which are adapted to graze on pastures, rather than the rocky hills that are more typical of the Maltese islands. So far there are no plans to reintroduce the Maltese goats back to Malta. The use of goats has decreased in these years and the only goat breed one can find in Malta is mainly the Syrian, which are mainly red in colour and which used to be imported from Syria and then exported to North Africa. Although no pure-breed Maltese goats remain in Malta, one cannot exclude that some of the local goats may be closely related to the pure Maltese breed. It is a pity that having a breed with strong cultural roots is totally absent from its place of origin. The Maltese male goat is depicted on stones from the Tarxien prehistoric temple.



Butterflies in Malta

Anthony Valletta was a keen lepidopterist. He spent most of his life collecting and studying butterflies and other insects and was one of the first people in Malta to talk and write about the need to protect Malta's natural environment. He wrote a number of books for children and adults as well as articles in newspapers and magazines.

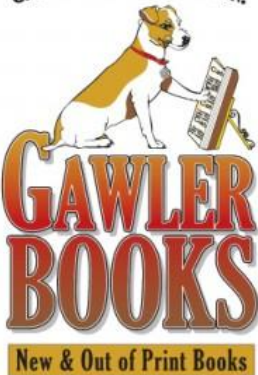
In 1980 he wrote an article about the butterflies of the Maltese islands and their dwindling habitats, in which he expressed concern about an alarming decrease in the number of individuals of certain butterflies which he was noticing. He wrote that complete colonies had disappeared from newly built up areas. He noted that in the 48 years during which he had been studying butterflies the colourful abundance of these beautiful insects had become a thing of the past. As is the situation today the most common butterflies were the migrants who every year augmented the local population. Lately I have been talking a lot with Maltese farmers especially elderly ones who remember the countryside as it was sixty or seventy years

ago and what all of them told me sadly reflects what Valletta wrote thirty years ago. Mr Valletta believed that the decline was being caused by the destruction of the butterflies' habitats because of new residential areas. He also blamed the planting of ornamental trees along the sides of valleys which were replacing local flora. The farmers blame the large quantities of pesticides that they use for the decline.

I am not aware of any studies that have been carried out to monitor the butterfly decline and their causes. It is already late to save the butterflies but it is better late than never and we can if we want to, halt the decline and even to reverse the trend. We owe the butterflies to future generations of Maltese people. We also have a responsibility to conserve local races such as that of the swallowtail butterfly which is endemic to the Maltese islands. Mr Valletta wrote that many of the natural habitats would continue to disappear but he hoped that those in a position to do so will encourage the preservation of all existing species by ensuring that the necessary food plants are not entirely eradicated from the countryside and in some cases that these would be deliberately propagated. Unfortunately, many species that Mr Valletta once enjoyed have become a rarity and might soon become extinct from the Maltese islands unless urgent action is taken to save them. (This article was published in The Times)



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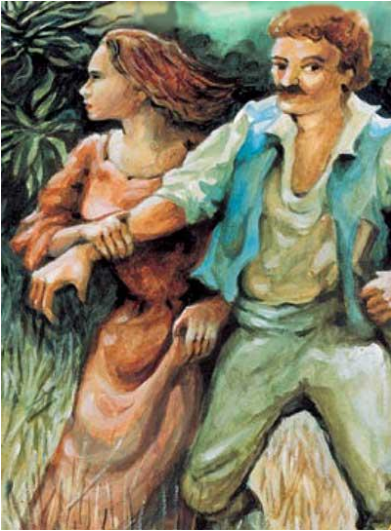
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Gawler Books actively promotes many animal charities, including Working For Animals (WFA) and Animals Australia . Gawler Books has raised over \$10000 for WFA. The bookshop also supports Bush Heritage. Gawler Books is an environmentally aware business and will convert to solar power this year.

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Myths and Legends

The Mosta Bride - L-Gharusa tal-Mosta

Once upon a time, long ago there was a tower in the village of Mosta. This was known as Cumbo Tower and it belonged to a kind and generous family. Within this tower lived the beautiful Marianne. She was aided by a servant named Haggi. He had been a Turkish slave, however the Cumbo family bought him and set him free, employing him as their daughter's assistant. Haggi was madly in love with the beautiful Marianne and dreamt of being with her.

These dreams were shattered when a young man, Toni Manduca, set his eyes on the beautiful girl and asked her father to allow him to marry the girl. Delighted at the prospect, the father said yes. But while everyone rejoiced and got lost in the buzz of planning a wedding Haggi sulked and scowled, feeling betrayed by fate. In the dead of night he snuck out of the tower and made for the coast. There he found a boat and set sail to Turkey.

Almost a year later, on the eve of the wedding, Haggi returned to Malta. This time though he wasn't alone, he brought a group of friends with him and they slowly made their way towards the house. Toni was out at the time, so Haggi knocked on the door and pretended to be the young man who stole his love from him. He mimicking Toni's voice and the Marquise let him in. As soon as the Marquise opened the door Haggi jumped onto him, dragging a blade across his throat, killing him instantly. He then ran up to where Marianne was and snatched her from her room. Bundling her up, Haggi and his friends made their way back to the boat, and sailed back to Turkey.

When Toni found out what happened he vowed to find his bride and bring her back to her mother. He disguised himself as a Turk and found a boat to take him there. Once he arrived in Turkey he explored the area, and after a few days picked up enough information to find out that Marianne was living with the Sultan in his palace.

As he walked around the palace he heard a beautifully sad song coming from a window, and recognised the singing as Marianne's. Toni instantly started singing back to her. She stuck her head out of the window, overjoyed to see her rescuer, realising that the words he was singing were in actual fact an escape plan. Marianne quickly turned to her only friend, the Sultan's daughter and asked her to aid her in her rescue. The daughter, who cared for Marianne and wanted to see her happy, agreed to help her. She disguised Marianne as a poor woman and smuggled her out of the palace.

Toni and Marianne stealthily made their way to the shore. They found a small sailing boat and rowed out of the harbour, their hearts pounding. Once in the open sea they unrolled their sail, and with God's help made their way to safety.

Of course, just like any other fairy tale or legend, the protagonists lived happily ever after. However, the story isn't a Maltese legend for no reason. Malta was prone to attacks from the Turkish Empire, and often the invaders would steal girls and take them back with them. What's more is that Cumbo Tower still exists to this day, you can spot it if you drive around Mosta's outskirts. So perhaps the story has some truth to it (with a little bit of embellishing of course!) Either way, it's a tale as old as time itself passed down from one generation to the next.



EnKor, founded in 2002, is a great and enthusiastic Maltese choir that stands for:

- Quality: the choir is trained in a professional way (voice/ breath technique, expression)
- Great repertoire (gospel, ballads, classical, musicals, pop songs, etc)
- Talented singers and musicians
- Inspiring atmosphere

EnKor is founded and directed by Johanna van Lent, a Dutch conductor with 40 years of experience. Johanna loves to share her knowledge with talented singers and musicians, encourages them, and helps them to develop their skills. In 2014 she appointed Brian Dimech, a very talented EnKor member, as assistant conductor.

THE CONDUCTOR: Johanna van Lent-Singels studied German and Musicology at University in the Netherlands. She moved to Malta in August 2001.



After conducting choirs in the Netherlands for 28 years Johanna missed the musical challenge and the sharing of musical passion and knowledge with other singers and musicians. In 2002 Johanna started a new choir in Malta: EnKor! "I'm very enthusiastic about the many talented people within EnKor. Together we experience the special, uplifting effect of music and we really enjoy sharing this feeling with the audience."

During rehearsals Johanna works with the choir on breath and voice techniques. The dynamics and interpretation of the musical pieces are most important to her - "Don't sing or play only the notes, they are just a tool, you have to go deeper and perform the essence of the music!" Johanna also appreciates the fruitful contacts she has with her Dutch musical friends. Henk van der Sanden, a professional pianist, conductor and soundman who is always ready to discuss musical ideas regarding choir matters like repertoire and sound. Kees Doevendans, examiner of Conducting at the Conservatory in Tilburg (NL) came to Malta in 2003 and 2005 to give special sessions to EnKor.



New home in Zurrieq for persons with disability

Parliamentary secretary Justyne Caruana opens the 'Shalom' home for people with disability. Id-Dar tal-Providenza opened their fourth home for people with disability, this time in Zurrieq. The home, called 'Shalom', will house five residents aided by their live-in carers.

In his welcoming speech, the Director of Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Fr Martin Micallef said that this home, in the

heart of Zurrieq and in a dignified environment that respects their rights, is being offered to persons with disability that wish to live in it and that like everyone else have the right to live in the community, be part of it and participate fully in its daily life.

The home was inaugurated by parliamentary secretary for people with disability Justyne Caruana, who pledged that the government will provide financial help for the next decade to sustain the individual service of support that the residents of 'Shalom' will need. In her speech, she spoke of the government's project to open ten homes for people with disability in the community, the next one earmarked for Haz-Zabbar.

She said the government has passed on €300,000 to 'Shalom' in order to cover for and ensure that the services given to the residents of the Zurrieq home were to the highest standards as set by the government for residential homes like this one. Thus, like all other members of Maltese society, these residents will be able to be full participants in society with equal rights including that of being able to work.

Present for the ceremony was Fr Cyril Axelrod, the first Catholic person in the world that was born deaf and became a priest. At the age of 40 he was diagnosed with the Usher Syndrome that led to his loss of eyesight as well. Fr Cyril is in Malta to promote the publication in Maltese of his autobiography "And The Journey Begins" translated into Maltese by Fred Bezzina and entitled "U Jibda l-Vjaġġ". Fr Cyril, aided by his personal interpreter spoke about his personal experiences and then presented Justyne Caruana with a copy of his book.

The Episcopal Vicar for Diaconia, Mgr Charles Cordina delivered a short speech and then blessed the new home as well as the van that will be used by the residents. Other speeches were made by the Opposition speaker for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Aging Robert Cutajar and Zurrieq mayor Ignatius Farrugia.



15 APRIL 1942: MALTA GETS GEORGE CROSS FOR BRAVERY

The people of Malta have been awarded the George Cross in recognition of their continuing heroic struggle against enemy attack.

The British colony in the Mediterranean is of crucial strategic importance to the Allied North African campaign and has been under almost constant attack from Italian and German aircraft since June 1940. But the island's real ordeal began four months ago when Adolf Hitler ordered it should be "neutralised" in preparation for a German invasion.

Since then the Luftwaffe has carried out hundreds of air raids on Malta, at one point averaging seven a day. In his message to the island's governor, King George VI said:

"To honour her brave people I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta, to bear witness to a heroism and a devotion that will long be famous in history."

Malta is the first British Commonwealth country to receive the bravery award - second only in ranking to the Victoria Cross - which is normally only awarded to individuals.

The island's governor, Lieutenant-General Sir William Dobbie accepted the award saying: "By God's help Malta will not weaken but will endure until victory is won."

Reports from Malta say the heavy aerial bombardment is continuing. Three raiding Messerschmitts are said to have been shot down and four more damaged in yesterday's raids.

Casualty figures for last month suggest 231 civilians were killed and 281 seriously injured. Nearly 300 suffered other lesser injuries. The Germans have concentrated their attacks on the island's harbour and aerodrome and the nearby towns and villages.

Figures for the period from 24 March to 12 April show 1,869 tons of bombs were dropped on the Grand Harbour and 162 hours were spent under air raid alerts with much of that time underground.

Shelters have been carved out of the soft limestone rock on which the island is built. At first the Government opened up and enlarged the catacombs used by the early Christians in Malta as burial places. Since then corridors have been dug and families have carved their own rooms to take cover.

The Times correspondent writing from Malta said: "The Messerschmitts try to spread terror by machine-gunning over the land; but if their aim is to cow the population, they may as well give up the attempt."

Top 10 Things to Taste in Malta



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Whether you are travelling to Malta as a tourist or plan to study abroad in this amazing place, Clubclass School of English recommends sampling Maltese food and drink specialities. The food in Malta has a rustic character and is filled with the colour and flavours of the central Mediterranean Island. The food of Malta is influenced by the proximity of North Africa and Sicily. Below are the top 10 things to taste while visiting Malta:

- 1. Gbejna.** This is a small round cheeselet that is made of sheep's milk, salt and rennet (an enzyme that helps the process of making milk into cheese). Gbejna is the local cheese and a huge amount of Maltese produced milk is used to produce this delicacy. This cheese is used in a variety of Maltese dishes, such as soup or pasta dishes, as well as a pizza topping, but it's probably at its most delicious when eaten raw with a piece of Maltese bread dipped in olive oil.
- 2. Zalzett.** This is a lovely Maltese sausage that is flavoured with coriander. Zalzett is quite salty and delicious. This too can be eaten raw or slightly toasted on a barbeque.
- 3. Minestra.** This is a thick vegetable soup that is served with Maltese bread and oil. Minestra uses a mixture of vegetables such as onions, carrots, tomatoes, courgettes, marrows, pasta and stock. This soup is especially appreciated during the winter months.
- 4. Timpana.** This is pasta baked in a pastry case. Timpana is specific to Malta and consists of Macaroni with bolognaise sauce, which is baked in a pastry case until it gets golden brown. You can find Timpana in the pastizzerias across Malta. Clubclass challenges you not to lick your fingers and lips once you're done with a portion of Maltese Timpana.
- 5. Imqarrun.** This is a baked macaroni dish. Imqarrun is a beloved dish made of cooked macaroni with a mixture of milk, egg, and additional ingredients such as vegetables, meats and fish. Imqarrun is commonly made with cheese or bread crumbs that are sprinkled on top.

6. Laħam taż-żiemel. This is a meat specialty, as Laħam taż-żiemel is stallion meat. The stallion meat is fried or baked in a white wine sauce until it becomes tender enough to eat.

7. Mazzit. This is another type of sausage which is made by cooking blood with a filler until the blood gets thick enough to congeal when cooled. Usually, the Mazzit is made using pig blood.

8. Pudina tal-hobż. This is a dessert which has no fixed recipe, but it is usually made of left-over bread and a mix of ingredients such as eggs, milk, sugar, suet, dried fruit, syrup and spices such as cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg and mace. The bread is soaked in the liquids and then mixed with other ingredients before baking.

9. Kinnie. This is a soft drink specific to Malta that was first developed in 1952. Since then, Maltese people began to enjoy this drink and now they would not give it up for anything in this world. Kinnie has a bitter-sweet flavour and it is usually drunk straight or mixed with alcohol.

10. Twistees. Twistees are the most popular snacks in Malta. These snacks are made of baked rice, which is given different flavors such as cheese, smokey barbeque, chicken, bacon and others.

There are many other tasty dishes and desserts specific to this region. Clubclass School of English recommends that you taste as many of these Maltese favourites as possible.

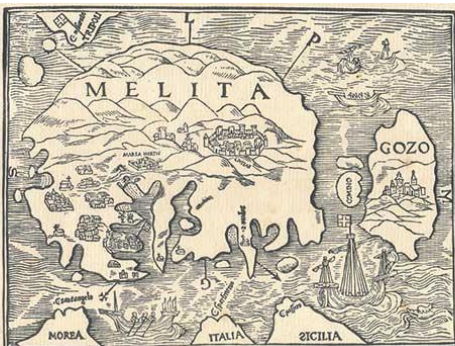
A SET OF BANK OF VALLETTA MASTERCARDS



The latest set of four Bank Of Valletta MasterCard Prepaid cards can now be yours. Ideal as a gift, the fourth edition features the beauty of Maltese birds of prey, photographed by Natalino Fenech. The Red Kite, the Merlin, the Lesser Kestrel and the Peregrine Falcon are the protagonists of

the new collection, with a different bird linked to a specific denomination. Cards may be purchased individually or as a limited edition set from any BOV branch. Prepaid cards are accepted at merchants and ATMs that accept MasterCard and can be used to make payments over the internet. BOV Prepaid cards are available in denominations of €50, €75, €100 and €150.

Malta: the island as you've never seen it before



By subsequent standards, this 1536 map by Johannes Quintinus is rather primitive, intended perhaps to be more of a nautical chart, but it is fairly accurate in depicting the island's main characteristics. The circular shape of Malta was followed by many other cartographers.

A map dating from between 1551 and 1558 grossly misplaces Fort St Angelo, named Castello. With no space to show it in its proper position in the centre of the east side of the Grand Harbour, it was moved to the open sea.

Over the centuries, maps of Malta show it enduring a number of aquatic reincarnations, morphing from the shape of a pebble to a jellyfish, before finally settling as a fish.

Some of these rare and curious maps of the island, dating from the second century AD to 1564, are explored in *The Pre-Siege Maps of Malta*, a new book by Albert Ganado and Joseph Schirò.

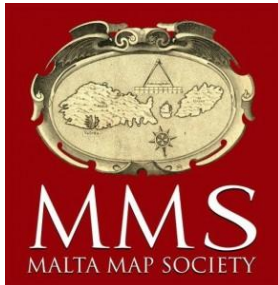
Published by the Malta Map Society and BDL, the book draws from libraries and private collections around the world, from Europe to Turkey and the United States. The very earliest maps depicting Malta are composite ones of the Mediterranean. An 1157 map by Al-Idrisi is of extreme importance for its antiquity and rarity. It is perhaps the earliest map which portrays Comino and also names it.

Al-Idrisi describes Malta thus: "To the east of this island [Pantelleria] at a distance of one hundred miles is the island of Gozo, which has a secure harbour. From Gozo to a small island called Comino. To the east of this lies Malta, a large island with a safe harbour opening to the east. Malta has a city. The island abounds in pastures, flocks, fruit and above all in honey." The first separate map of Malta dates to the 1470s, which proves its importance at the centre of the inland sea notwithstanding its extreme smallness. It was a vital focal point for navigators and a seaward bridge between Sicily and the Barbary states.

A medieval map of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands from 1157 by Al-Idrisi. Malta, Comino and Gozo are depicted at the top left of the map. Most of the early Islamic maps were oriented south. Right: Dating from the 1470s, this is the first known separate map of the Maltese islands. The map bears no relation to the real shape of Malta.

However, it was only in the 16th century that Malta acquired the status of a pawn on the European chessboard. When it became the new seat of the Order of St John in 1530 after its eviction from Rhodes, the island was exposed to frequent raids by Ottoman forces and the Barbary corsairs of the fame of Barbarossa and Dragut. It was therefore imperative for the Turkish captain Piri Reis to show Malta in his manuscript books on nautical charts in the 1520s.

When the Order settled in Malta, its formidable fleet became a constant threat to the enemy ships plying the waters of the Mediterranean, especially because Tripoli had been conceded to the Knights Hospitaller together with Malta. In 1551, a Turkish armada under Sinan Pasha and the famous corsair Dragut sacked Gozo and carried away into slavery its whole population, after which they went on to capture Tripoli. This heavy raid captured the attention of Christian Europe, especially Italy, and maps of Malta were produced in Rome and Venice. The book is sponsored by the Alfred Mizzi Foundation.



The Malta Map Society

The idea for a Malta Map Society was germinated about ten years ago during the Proceedings of History Week of that year by Dr Albert Ganado and H.E. Dr Ivan Fsadni. After their meeting, Dr Fsadni compiled various aims and objectives of different map societies or circles from all over the world and prepared a lot of the groundwork. The foundation meeting of the Malta Map Society was held on the 14th of November 2009 in the Pardo Hall at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Merchants Street, Valletta.

The meeting started with an introductory speech by Dr Ganado who thanked the audience present for accepting his invitation to lay the foundations for the formation of a Malta Map Society. Dr Ganado then proceeded to give a signed offprint of a paper which he had published in *Imago et Mensura Mundi*, and which he had delivered at the *IX Congresso internazionale di Storia della Cartografia* in Rome. The paper, entitled 'Italy's Sixteenth Century Contribution to the Cartography of Malta', was distributed to all the members present as a memento of this historic occasion.

After the presentation, Dr Ganado dedicated a few words to the memory of his father Dr Roberto Federico Ganado who had instilled in him his love for Melitensia and Maltese cartography. A very keen collector himself, his father must have been, together with Magistrate Dr Edgar Parnis, one of the main collectors of Melitensia at that time. What started as a hobby for Dr Ganado, became a lifelong passion, which has in turn developed into a mission. This has led to the birth of The Malta Map Society. Dr Ganado then proceeded to pass a motion to nominate an ad hoc committee, which was approved by the members present, to draft a Statute for The Malta Map Society. The first statutory meeting of The Malta Map Society was held on Saturday, March 6th 2010 at 10.30 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pardo Hall, Merchants Street, Valletta.

The meeting was chaired by Dr Ganado, who was nominated for President of the new society. Dr Ganado read out the statute of the new society which was unanimously approved. Members discussed a number of topics, such as the

immediate setting up of a website, documenting the numerous antique oil paintings on the island which feature maps and which are found mostly in private collections, the maps kept at the National Library and a number of other topics including the fascinating subject of variants of Maltese maps. Dr Ganado gave a number of examples of these and also revealed that, following the successful Miniature Maps of Malta exhibition in Gozo, a number of new variants had been identified by collectors and visitors. The first committee meeting of the newly formed Malta Map Society was held on Saturday, March 13 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. Dr Albert Ganado was confirmed in his role as President. Dr Ivan Fsadni was elected Vice-President, Mr Joseph Schirò was elected Secretary, Mr. Claude Micallef Attard was elected Treasurer, and Dr Austin Sammut was appointed to act as Public Relations Officer.

Annual strawberry-festa at Mġarr Square Malta



The Independent Sunday, 10 April 2016,

The annual Strawberry Fest at Mġarr Square has been a smash success, filling the streets with the lively red colour of ripe and juicy strawberries. People from all over the island came to enjoy the festivities, with a constant supply of freshly picked strawberries bursting out of each stall. Strawberry smoothies, sweets, jams, wine and juices were all made available. In addition to this, well-liked Maltese folk groups entertained the audience by playing traditional Maltese songs.



Joseph Calleja wins top opera award... presented by Placido Domingo

Martha Domingo, Joseph Calleja, Emma Spiteri Gonzi, Placido Domingo and Anna Netrebko after the ceremony.

Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja was last night handed the *Opera News* award during a ceremony in New York. Calleja was among five honorees to be acknowledged for contributions to the opera world at the 11th annual awards ceremony.

The tenor was handed the award by opera legend Placido Domingo - the two are incidentally currently performing in *Simon Boccanegra* in New York. Senior editor

Louise Guinther said: "Joseph Calleja has a golden-age voice, its very timbre imbued with intense emotion and irresistible passion, and he wields it with technical mastery so secure that he can project an air of complete spontaneity and abandon - the essence of the singing actor's art. Calleja paints fully dimensional characters through sound alone."

Calleja told *Times of Malta*: - "I am absolutely thrilled to receive this award presented to me by opera legend Placido Domingo. *Opera News* magazine has been one of the major operatic institutions for more than half a century. It's quite an honour especially when in the company of the other recipients Anna Netrebko, Elina Garanca, Waltraud Maier and Jose Van Dam." *Opera News* has been published by The Metropolitan Opera Guild since 1936; it has the largest circulation of any classical music

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/>

