



THE MALTESE NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

THE MOTTO - BUILDING BRIDGES NOT WALLS

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Emigrants leaving Malta
with tears in their eyes 1950

Ron Borg has compiled the history
of some of the Maltese migrants of
South Australia. Part 2 is on Page 3

Skaubryn at anchor
Valletta Malta





Maltese Migrants on SS Asturias

WE SALUTE THE MALTESE CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD

MALTA WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SACRIFICES, TEARS, TENACITY AND RESILIENCE

Migration is in many cases a tearing-apart, a violent disruption to family life and, at best, a traumatic experience. Settling in a strange and foreign land can be

a lonely, soul-destroying episode in one's life. If this is so today, it must have been even more so 40, 50 and 60 years ago when travel was long and hazardous, facilities were primitive or non-existent and the welcome was scant.

That Maltese emigrants recovered well, settled tenaciously, and overcame all the difficulties and hardships. This is a lasting tribute to them. The stories of our migrants that you read in our newsletters from are a living testimony to their bravery and ingenuity. Many had to settle in primitive surroundings far from any links with the culture they left behind them, unable even to utter a few words in Maltese or express themselves in any language. They toiled in fields or unfamiliar factories. They built their houses and raised their families according to the morals and ideals they believed in. The story of these people, told by themselves in language both simple and touching, stretches from the earthy to the sublime. They travelled the JOURNEY OF THE UNKNOWN.

These are the people who in the greying of their years sit back and reminisce. They remember their joyful youth, the shiny positive aspects or their many threatening clouds, the highlights of their lifetimes. Their children and grandchildren will read these stories and remember the love and sacrifice of those who they may not perhaps have understood. The Maltese migrants assisted Malta in its prosperous development for these last six decades and they are still enjoying the bond with their homeland. **When they return to their homeland for a visit they should feel proud for their significant contribution to the island and they should feel at home.**

TO ALL MIGRANTS IN THE MALTESE DIASPORA WE SAY, 'THANK YOU' AND 'WELL DONE'. MALTA WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SACRIFICES, TEARS, TENACITY AND RESILIENCE. YOU ARE OUR HEREOS AND YOU STILL BELONG TO US AND WE LOVE YOU!!!! – read next page.....

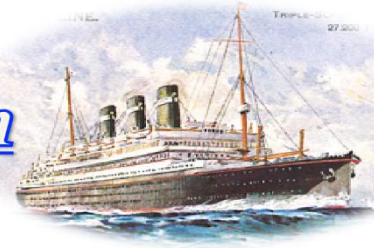
We thank the many hundreds of readers who read, love and share the
MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER. We thank also those who send us
acknowledgement contributions, comments, suggestions and emails.
MALTESE DIASPORA.

Our journals are proudly archived at the Malta Migration Museum, Valletta,
and the Maltese-Canadian Museum, Toronto Canada



Journey To The Unknown

By Ron Borg



This is the continuing story about the Maltese migrants that made the 16,000kms journey by ship to South Australia their new home.

Hellenic Mediterranean Lines ~ *T.S.S. Cyrenia* 1947 to 1957

The TSS Cyrenia was originally the New Zealand liner, SS Maunganui, but in 1947 had an extensive refit to hold 840 passengers and 136 crew, as well as doubling the amount of lifeboats to 26, and named **The SS Cyrenia**, by the new

owners "Hellenic Mediterranean Lines". It operated from Genoa, Malta and Greece, to Melbourne



Emma Ellul and her five children, Joseph, Doris, Lynette, Mary and Agnes

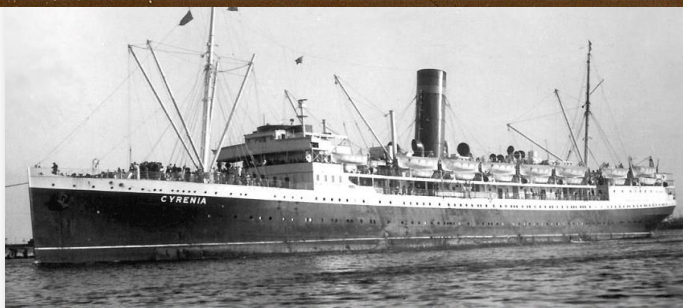
Australia, and proved to be a very reliable and comfortable steamer despite her 37 years of age. On her second voyage the Cyrenia took passengers from Malta to Australia, however on August 1950, by

special request, she headed directly for Saigon and took on board French Nationals who were fleeing the war in Indo-China. Because of the declining numbers in migration, good advertising and promotions, created full fare paying customers back from Australia. In 1956 the master of the Cyrenia was heavily fined for contravening safety regulations, but worse than that, in that same year the Suez Canal was closed and sadly brought this once magnificent small liner's career to an end late in 1956.

After it left Melbourne for the last time, it was sold to an Italian ship breaker in February 1967.

In August 1950, **Agnes Borg (nee Ellul)**, as a very young girl, was voyaging on the Cyrenia, along with her pregnant mother Emma and her four siblings, **Joseph, Doris, Antoinette, Mary, & Agnes.**

Everyone was pretty seasick, so Agnes had to be the courier of the food from the dining room to the cabin where the sea sick family were suffering. In fact one day, one of the ship's officers followed



TSS Cyrenia is seen arriving in Melbourne

Agnes to see where she was taking all this food. Once he realized that it was to feed the whole seasick family, he took steps to have food sent to them in their cabin.

One of the other Maltese passengers that Agnes recalls on the same voyage was **Lora Baldacchino (nee Mifsud)**. Lora was in the company of her mother and six siblings. She recollects that after leaving the port of Colombo, a storm developed and the ship was being tossed in the water like a cork, with "one end of the ship in the water, and the other side in mid air!", but thank goodness, they survived the storm. Lora recalls that they were told that a ship following only 3 hour behind theirs, actually sank. Frightening isn't it!

THIS SERIES "JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN" WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION VALLETTA – MALTA

Virgil Bugeja *Myriam Pavia* *Joe Pavia* *Tania Walters*
President Vice President Treasurer Active Member

The Friends of Australia Association organised a magnificent event at the Great Dane Restaurant at the Mellieha Holiday Complex on the 26th August 2017

The attendance was great and the atmosphere amazing. Both Maltese members of the Association and their friends together with Maltese Australian holiday makers enjoyed themselves. The setting was sublime with the Ghadira Bay in the background as also the Mellieha Parish Church well lit during the evening. An evening to remember. Here are a few pictures to commemorate the event.

The Friends of Australia Association has now been in existence for the past 40 years assisting Maltese returned migrants to apply for their Australian Age Pension as any other problems that may arise with Centrelink and also with the Maltese Authorities.

Any Maltese Australian visiting Malta who may need any assistance is very welcome to attend our office at Dar L-Emigrant, Emigrants Commission, Castile Place, Valletta on Tuesdays between 9 am 12 noon and we will do our utmost to offer our assistance as required.

Joe Pavia Treasurer - Friends of Australia Association - Emigrants Commission

Castile Place -Valletta – Malta - Mob: 0035679821783





The National Book Council is the public entity that caters for the Maltese book industry with several important services whilst striving to encourage reading and promote the book as a medium of communication in all its formats. It organises the Malta Book Festival and the National Book Prize amongst other national as well as smaller scale events, administers Public Lending Rights, organises several literary contests and is also the local agent for ISBN and ISMN.

The National Book Council's markedly cultural mindset and multimedia approach enables it to work directly with the book industry. However, as an entity, it falls under the remit of the Ministry of Education and Employment and has always been

considered as part and parcel of the public educational infrastructure. Malta Libraries, which is the public entity responsible for all public libraries including the National Library, is a separate and distinguished entity, which works in close collaboration with the National Book Council.

The Malta Book Festival, held yearly, is the most important book event in the Maltese calendar. The event currently has an attendance rate of 30,000 people and the participation of more than 40 exhibitors. Its cultural programme features well over 50 events in book launches, book presentations, poetry readings, meetings with authors, conferences and seminars.

The Malta Book Festival is held at what used to be the old hospital, the Sacra Infermeria of the Knights of St John, now the Mediterranean Conference Centre, in the first and second week of November. It evolved from the Malta Book Fair, which was first held in 1979, into a festival that celebrates the book culture and seeks to represent the book in its entirety – not just as any object of consumption but as something that involves the reader beyond the confines of the book. For this reason, the event was rebranded as the Malta Book Festival in 2013. You can read more about the history of the Festival [here](#).

As a direct result of this rebranding, the Festival expanded in scope both in terms of participation and as a cultural event. The cultural programme of the Festival now features a wealth of activities, including dramatisations of literary texts, discussions and conferences on literary themes, and expert readings of passages from novels or poetry. Weekday mornings are reserved for school children and students and a special programme of events is prepared for them.

Among the many participants in the Festival, visitors will encounter practically all the publishers, authors and literary agents active on the island. Recently, the international flavour of the Festival has come to the fore with the inclusion of foreign participants, including foreign publishing houses, bookshops, libraries and foreign authors.

Moreover, the Malta Book Festival is one of a series of very important components of the Government's plan to make Valletta a European Capital of Culture in 2018 and, in this respect, it is fully supporting the Council in developing and enhancing further this event.

'Bajtar tax-Xewk' -The *Prickly Pear* Fruit in Malta



When traveling down almost any country lane around the islands it is often hard to miss the ever abundant cacti that flow over the *Ħajt tas-Sejjeħ* (rubble wall/dry stone wall) lining the roads. These flat cacti are the source of one of Malta's more unusual products and national obsessions ... the prickly pear.

Prickly pears are known as 'Bajtar tax-xewk' (*Opuntia ficus-indica* or Indian Fig) grow with large flat, rounded cladodes (also called platyclades) which often become magnificently tangled and twisted sculpture-like objects, were it not for farmers lopping off bits from time to time it might well take over. In the past farmers would use it as a boundary between fields; it is certainly as the most effective deterrent to both the intruder and wandering livestock, the spines are after all quite sharp. Like all true cactus species, prickly pears are native to the Western hemisphere. Prickly pear species are found in abundance in Mexico, the western United States in the arid regions in the Northwest and throughout the mid and lower elevations of the Rocky Mountains such as in Colorado.

Throughout the heights of summer, the Prickly pear reigns supreme in Malta's landscape. The small fruit gradually emerges throughout the year attached to the end of the leaves and are ripe when they turn into any variety of bright colors. One will find shops and vans that sell them, kindly they remove the spines, which is certainly a relief. However, some brave souls may choose to pick and peel them for themselves, though this is best left to hardy folk whose hands seem glorious immune to the little spines. When peeled the color inside is a positively diverse rainbow of options with greens yellows, reds, and purples being among the more common.



While abundant, Malta does not seem to make a great deal of use from its Prickly pear harvest. In Sicily, they are adventurously turned into a plethora of delectable treats including candies, granitas, sorbets, ice creams and jellies as well as serving it up as dessert in restaurants. Here it is usually served one of two ways, either raw, where it has flavors similar to watermelon, honeydew melon, strawberries, and figs, or as the traditional liqueur Bajtra. The procedure required to make the liqueur Bajtra begins with the extractions of the juices, and while the process is complicated and does require some effort, the fermentation process is similar to that of winemaking. When completed it appears as a baby pink liquid, should be served ice cold and lends itself dutifully as a delightful after dinner drink. The juice of the pears can be also turned into jam.



The fruit is collected between August and September of each year from local farmers. The pulp from the fruit is extracted from the plant which is the typical "plate shaped" leaf, is sieved into vets and fermented with the addition of a yeast species. It is widely believed that prickly pears have medicinal properties. Many chemical compounds have been extracted from it which have been found to be useful against several conditions especially inflammations. In Malta, it was used against stomach aches, bone pain, inflammations, and insect stings.

Interestingly, a species of scale insect thrives on the prickly pear. This insect produces carmic acid which is used to make cochineal, a red dye used in red food coloring and cosmetics. The dye was used by the Aztec and Mayans in Oaxaca, Mexico, and exported to Europe, today it is still used as the coloring agent for all red Smarties. *InterContinental Malta*.

PROUD OF MY ABORIGINAL AND MALTESE HERITAGE

Dear Frank, I really appreciate the newsletter you email regularly. My wife and I are going to Malta and spend two weeks enjoying what Malta has to offer as tourists in two weeks. The main reason we are going is to connect with the Maltese side of the Family. My grandfather Charlie Agius came to Adelaide and married my grandmother, Laura Lydia Buckskin and lived in Adelaide

Charlie was in the Australian Army. Charlie Agius had a daughter who came from Malta and her name was Mrs. G Ciantar with 8 of her children. The names of the children are Olga, Germanzio, John, Raymond, George, Sonny,

I was wondering if you could help me connect my grandfather's family in Malta.. or provide any possible leads to follow this is my email address and the attached photos are of my family in Adelaide the Malta's president.. Kind regards

Parry Agius 0419814060
parry@linkingfutures.com.au

I NEED HELP

My father is Mark, son of Dr. Francis Xavier Borg and Edith (nee Kohl) Borg. My father is one of 6 children (4 girls and 2 boys). I believe my great grandfather's name was Joseph Borg from Malta and my great grandmother was possibly either Mary or Maria (?) from Sicily (?). I seem to recall the name Carmelo as well. I also remember my grandfather telling me at one point of his having 12 brothers and sisters or being one of 12 and that their father Joseph (and/or perhaps their grandfather) was a shoemaker I believe.

That my grandfather used to ride his bike to the ferry so he could go to Sicily to get leather for his father's shoemaking. My grandparents came to Canada from England somewhere after my father's birth in England in the late 50's. I'm not entirely sure, but, I think my grandfather lived in Sliema (it sounds familiar), although I could be mistaken. Unfortunately, my grandfather's mental health has declined and information is limited. I'm also not sure of any link to Gibraltar, but that sounds vaguely familiar as well.

Searching Borg has proven to be quite difficult. It appears everyone pretty much had one of a handful of first names. If any of this sounds familiar to anyone else, I would be interested in trading info and finding any more discoveries of my ancestry. Send an email to this Newsletter. Cherri (nee Borg) Gascoigne



MARIKA GALEA

Bassist Marika Galea was named as the 2014 Rising Young Star at the Prince Edward County Jazz Festival and is currently on full scholarship at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Since enrolling at Berklee, Marika Galea has performed everywhere from the desert of Santa Fe to Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in New York, as she carves out her reputation as a jazz bassist with staying power on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

She is presently a student of master drummers Ralph Peterson Jr. and Terri Lyne Carrington, as well as bassist Susan Hagen (Boston Symphony Orchestra extra). She plans to complete her studies in Performance and Classical Composition with a minor in Conducting. Over the last few years, Marika has enjoyed the privilege of performing with a number of skillful artists including Cyrus Chestnut, Bucky Pizzarelli, and Steve Davis.

She has also opened for the likes of Branford Marsalis & Joey Calderazzo, Joey DeFrancesco, Al Jarreau and Randy Brecker. Marika also leads a variety of projects, and looks forward to appearing at the 2015 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival with her quartet. Originally from Toronto, Marika is a former student of both the University of Toronto and the Humber College Community Music School.

A respected musician, journalist, and educator who emerged from the Toronto scene, Marika aspires to a career in international relations as a musical ambassador for both Canada and the United States as her musicianship continues to grow.

David Farrugia

USA/Malta



David Farrugia, a dual citizen of the United States and Malta (European Union), has developed both transactional and litigation legal skills in corporate, construction and complex commercial law. He is a licensed attorney in the States of Texas and Florida, as well as being licensed in The United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. Since becoming a licensed attorney, David has developed negotiation and courtroom experience by actively litigating cases corporate and construction cases from the initial dispute, through mediation and trial.

Additionally, he has extensive experience drafting, reviewing and negotiating corporate contracts for national and international business dealings. His experience involves representing and litigating cases against global corporations, construction companies, land developers and insurance conglomerates. Various cases David has worked on focused specifically on cross-border agreements and international contractual disputes. David's involvement in these complex cross-border dealings furthered his desire to pursue a Master in International Law and Economics at the WTI.

David earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management from Texas A&M University, in College Station, Texas. Additionally, David was awarded with a Concentration Degree in International Business at Texas A&M University, where he furthered his studies in Strategic Global Management at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid in Madrid, Spain and Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain. After completing his undergraduate business degree, David attained his Juris Doctor at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa, Florida, where he also was awarded with a Certificate of Concentration in International Law. David served as President of Stetson's International Law Society and presented thesis papers for his International Banking & Finance Course on "Should the United Kingdom Join the European Monetary Union" and for his Electronic Commerce Research Seminar on "Choice of Jurisdiction for Internet Transactions in the European Union and United States."

David was one of only two law students awarded with a five month internship in Washington Mutual's legal department, where he participated in the negotiation of banking agreements and conducted research on the company's banking and financial practices throughout the United States. Further, David was the only Stetson Law student chosen for an International Corporate Internship being selected to work in the European Headquarters for Duke University Fuqua School of Business Europe, GmbH, in Frankfurt, Germany.

David chose the MILE programme to concentrate his career on International Trade and Economic Law to accomplish his goal of developing a truly international practice at a European or United States based global law firm or leading international institution. <https://www.wti.org/institute/people/222/farrugia-david/>

Traditional food FESTIVAL OF FIGS IN GOZO



The very popular Festival of Figs and typical Maltese products, is returning once again to Xaghra this month.

This weekend festival, is organised by the Xaghra Local Council and was celebrated for the first time in 2010, with the aim of promoting local figs and other typical products.

The Xaghra Local Council is a member of the ficusnet network, which is a network of European towns and cities that produce figs as one of their typical products.

Taking place on Saturday and Sunday, the 16th and 17th of September, the programme of activities is as follows:

Saturday 16th of September:

At 10am, an information session discussing the cultivation of fig trees, will be held at the 'Dun Alwig Camilleri' Hall in the Victory Band Club.

Sunday 17th of September:

7.30am-1.00pm, The Festival of Figs and local food will be displayed on stalls around Victory Square.

The programme for the morning includes a demonstration of traditional food made by Karmen Tedesco and live entertainment by the Xaghra Folk Group and Ta' Verna Folk Band.

Entrance is free and the Council invites everyone to attend. **GOZONEWS.COM**



Sword of Grand Master de La Valette



One of the most precious treasures belonging to the Order of St John was the Sword and Poniard (dagger) of Grand Master Fra' Jean de La Valette. The great victory of the 8th September, 1565 at the end of the Great Siege of Malta earned the admiration and gratitude of Christendom. The crowned heads of Europe vied with each other to honour the Order in the person of its victorious Grand Master Fra' Jean de La Valette.

The gifts of the king of Spain, Philip II, a sword, poniard and gurdle, were to become among the most treasured emblems of the Order of St John. On the sword were engraved these words: PLUS QUAM VALOR VALETTE VALET. The gifts were presented to La Valette by an envoy from the king, Fra' Antonio Maldonado. He delivered a eulogy before a large gathering of members of the Order and many foreigners who were on the island at that time.

Fra' Antonio Maldonado acclaimed the Grand Master as the greatest of leaders in Christendom and exhorted him to maintain the struggle against the enemy. La Valette was deeply moved by the envoy's words. He replied that without the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom, he had implored in battle, the victory would have been impossible. In gratitude he had already proclaimed 8th September, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, was to remain a national feast day of the island, and that from now on the Sword and Poniard would be carried, unsheathed, in the ceremonies of thanksgiving carried out on that day as a sign of readiness to take up arms in defence of Christianity.

La Valette decreed that the Sword and Poniard should be kept in the Treasury of the Order. When Valletta was built and the Magistral Palace completed, the treasures were kept in the Armoury and only removed in accordance with the instructions of La Valette. On these occasions the Sword and Poniard were carried by a favourite page of the Grand Master- usually the son of a high ranking nobleman. These gifts, now became regalia and added to the splendour of the Order's ceremonial.



The gurdle was made of gold while the Sword and Poniard were masterpieces of the jewelers art. The hilt and pommel were enamelled and embossed in gold with decoration of emblems of knighthood finished off with scrolls. The precious stones which encrusted both hilt and pommel gave a flashing brilliance to the weapons when held aloft.

The last appearance of the Sword and Poniard in the Conventual Church of St John Valletta, Malta at the celebration of Victory was in 1797, a few weeks after the election of Grand Master Hompesch and nine months before the surrender of Malta to Napoleon and the French. It was then that the Sword and Poniard were taken from the Treasury of the Magistral Palace. The whereabouts of the girdle is unknown but the Sword and Poniard presented to La Valette by Philip II were taken to France where they are now on display in the Louvre.



Traditions: Wine, Olive Oil and Honey – a family event in Gozo



Traditions: Wine, Olive Oil and Honey – is being organised by the Ghasri Local Council later this month.

This free of charge event for all the family will include, a roasted pig, other local foods, wine tasting activities, a children's area by JumpMalta and much more, with entertainment by the Astra Folk Group, DCapital's Band and the participation of Ta' Mena Estate, as well as the Queen's Baton Relay.

All of this will take place at Pjazza s-Salvatur in Ghasri, Gozo, on Saturday, the 23rd of September,

from 7.00pm onwards.

The Gold Coast 2018 Queen's Baton Relay was launched in March this year at Buckingham Palace, signalling the official countdown to the start of the Games.

The Baton carries a message from the Head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II and this year the Relay is set to be the longest in Commonwealth Games history. The Queen's Baton Relay will be in Malta and Gozo between the 21st and 25th of September.

Covering 230,000km over 388 days, the Baton will make its way through the six Commonwealth regions of Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Gozonews.com

Arts Council Malta (AMC) in New York

ACM in NY promotes and supports Maltese Arts and Culture in the US and fosters cultural cooperation and partnerships. Arts Council Malta in New York has gained momentum in promoting and presenting Maltese artists in arts events across New York City and beyond, in the United States.

In February 2016 ACM in NY made representations to EUNIC NY as a result of which, ACM in NY was elected full member of the NY cluster of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) in New York.



One of the artworks by Ritty Tacsum exhibited at PHOTOVILLE in New York in 2016

EUNIC New York (European Union National Institutes for Culture in NY) promotes and presents cutting-edge and thought-provoking creative, artistic and intellectual European achievements to New York and U.S. audiences. EUNIC partners with eminent American and European organizations to provide programs in the fields of art and culture, language and education, society and academia. The organization is part of a global coalition of national cultural institutes and cultural diplomatic services from

the European Union that work in more than 80 cities on all continents. EUNIC New York was founded in 2007 and has 14 full members and 32 associate members and observers. Some of these members include the Arts Council Malta in New York, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, the Balassi Institute - Hungarian Cultural Center New York, Dutch Culture USA the General Representation of the Government of Flanders to the U.S.A., the Goethe Institut New York, Instituto Cervantes, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Onassis Foundation (USA), and the Polish Cultural Institute New York.

Over the past year ACM in NY has promoted, facilitated, supported and presented Maltese Arts including Literature, Art, Film, Music and Photography in events and festivals across New York as well as in Washington DC. A couple of highlights include: Participating in the leading Photography



Festival - PHOTOVILLE, as one of the festival's curatorial partners, partnering with organizations that included Instagram, The New York Times, TIME Magazine, National Geographic, The Pulitzer Center, the Magnum Foundation;

Presenting the premiere New York screening of the first film to be selected as the Maltese entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards - Simshar, at the PANORAMA Europe Film Festival, in New York City.

The presentation of SIMSHAR, directed by Rebecca Cremona at the Panorma Europe Film Festival in New York in 2016.



To mark the launch of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a concert was held on Monday January 16th 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City in the ECOSOC Chamber. This event was held under the auspices of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Carmelo Inguanez, in collaboration with Arts Council Malta in New York. Tenor Nico Darmanin and pianist Charlene Farrugia performed a varied music program ranging from works by

Maltese composer Joseph Vella to compositions by Liszt, Tosti, Ravel, Britten and Bertnstein.

On February 16th, 2017, Arts Council Malta (ACM) in New York, in association with the Embassy of Malta to the USA, sponsored a Poetry Reading event by award winning Maltese poet and novelist Immanuel Mifsud at the Library of Congress (LOC), James Madison Memorial Building in Washington DC

Preparations for the Malta Pavilion at

La Biennale di Venezia 2017

Published on Tuesday 18 April 2017



There's a parachute fragment; a piece of cloth with a prayer by private soldier; an ex-voto of a ferilla in a storm – as well as contemporary artworks by 13 leading Maltese artists

Photo credit: PRAYER detail, Austin Camilleri

These are some of around 200 objects which will form part of the Malta Pavilion at the Biennale di Venezia 2017.

Less than a month before the opening of the Malta Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia 2017,

preparations are well underway.

This International Exhibition, which will run between 13 May-26 November 2017, is one of the most prestigious exhibitions in the world, with an attendance of over 500,000 visitors. Media attention is exceptional; in 2015 there were over 8,000 accredited journalists, of which 5,450 from the foreign press and 2,650 from the Italian press.

The Venice Art Biennale is reputedly one of the biggest gatherings of contemporary art works in the world, also known as the stage for the most internationally diverse artistic voices to be found anywhere.

The declared aim of the Malta Pavilion, which is being commissioned by Arts Council Malta, is to offer a platform through which Maltese contemporary artists can be presented to an international audience.

Photo credit: Study, detail from D. Mylius Opus Medico-Chymicum, JP Azzopardi



Speaking at an informal event to thank patrons and sponsors of the Malta Pavilion held at Arts Council Malta, Culture Minister Owen Bonnici expressed his delight at the effort made by the curators and the organisers as well as at the level of Maltese talent that will be on international display through the six months of what is among the most famous art events in the world.

"From the start of this legislature, Government has worked hard to cultivate, nurture and promote the talents of Maltese artists on national and international stages, through investment and participation in events such as the Venice Biennale as well as through diplomatic relations that led to Maltese culture and Maltese artists benefitting from opportunities worldwide," said Dr Bonnici. He also referred to the crib designed and built by a Gozitan artist displayed for the Christmas festivities at the Vatican City last year – a first not only for Malta but also internationally, as no non-Italian made crib had ever been displayed in St Peter's Square before.

Arts Council Malta executive chair Albert Marshall added: "Through the selection of around 200 objects making up the Malta Pavilion, the curatorial concept aims to create a dialogue as well as open up a discussion on who we are – or perhaps who we think we are – as Maltese people."

Malta is officially returning to the Biennale with a 300-square metre National Pavilion at the Arsenale in the main exhibition section, after an absence of 17 years. It has so far participated with a special exhibition of Maltese Artists in 1958 and a National Pavilion in 1999.

In the coming weeks, the arts objects forming part of the Malta Pavilion will start being shipped to Venice. The concept for the Malta Pavilion – *Homo Melitensis: An Incomplete Inventory in 19 chapters* – is a collective exhibition that investigates the quest for a national identity through artistic, archival and documentary elements. Everyday objects are interconnected in the poetic, associative space of a Cabinet of Curiosities.

Curators Raphael Vella and Bettina Hutschek have drawn on Maltese art from the past and present, juxtaposing historic items with contemporary. This overview will include works by artists based in Malta, works by artists from the Maltese diaspora (chosen from submissions following an Open Call), folk artefacts, works from private and national collections, other artefacts and images that come from different sources, like journalism, national and private collections and popular culture.

The artists included in the show offer a diverse array of styles, mediums and topics, with contributions from: Joe Sacco, Karine Rougier, Roxman Gatt, Teresa Sciberras, Darren Tanti, Aaron Bezzina, David Pisani, Pia Borg, Austin Camilleri, John Paul Azzopardi, Gilbert Calleja, Adrian Abela, and the late satirical cartoonist Maurice Tanti Burlo (known as Nalizpelra).

The Malta Pavilion is being commissioned by Arts Council Malta, in collaboration with MUŻA under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government. It will also form part of the Cultural programme of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2017. The project will also bridge with the contemporary art programme of Valletta as European Capital of Culture in 2018. The Biennale is one of 70 actions being implemented as part of Strategy2020, Arts Council Malta's five-year strategy for the cultural and creative sectors.

THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the
Maltese Diaspora

Prosit u prosit tassew
F'Rabta shiha ma' Malta
Grazzi u sliem lilek u
l-qarrejja kollha
Mons. Philip Calleja
Malta



READ - ENJOY
AND SHARE



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

Give a people a fish and you
feed them for a day; teach
people to fish and they will
eat forever.

Happiness cannot be travelled to,
owned, earned, worn or consumed.
Happiness is the spiritual
experience of living every minute
with love, grace, and gratitude

Innu lill-Bambina



O kemm kienu ixxurtjati
Sant'Anna u San Ġwakkin
illi taw lid-dinja tagħna
l-Omm li welldet lill-Bambin!

O ħelwa ċkejna Bambina
kemm ninsabu kburin bik;
l-hena w il-ferħ kollu tagħna
insibuh aħna biss fik!

Il-ġmiel tiegħek isahharna
Miġbur f'statwa hekk sabiħa
B'kuruna ħelwa fuq rasek
Minn fejn tgħaddi, tarmi l-fwieħa!

O Sultana nkurunata
Qatt ma nixbghu nfahhruk
Warajk ninsabu miġnuna
Imħabbitna dlonk nuruk!

Festa kbira lilek nagħmlu
kif Settembru jidhol magħna;
inti l-ġawhra ta' mħabbitna
illi ssaltan fil-qalb tagħna.

U fit-tokk tar-raħal tagħna
bnejnielek tempju mis-sbieħ
fejn ix-Xagħra lkoll tingabargħaliex
thobbok wisq, qatigħ!

Lilna ħlist mill-qawwa Torka
li niesna kienet tistmerrha;
fuq pajjiżna ġibt il-paċi
kif intemmet l-aħħar gwerra!

Dawn l-ġranet ergajt lura
Wara xi xogħol ta' restawr
Žgur li issa tidher isbaħ
Ilqa' dlonk tagħna l-hajr!

Ritornell:
O Bambina hawn arana
ma' djulek dlonk miġburin
la twarrabx ħarstek minn fuqna
aħna wliedek midinbin.

Lejl u nhar lix-Xagħrin bierek
zommhom dejjem magħqudin
sabiex wara din il-ħajja
miegħek jitgħannqu henjin!

Kav Joe M Attard
Victoria Ghawdex



Stage and Proms Ludwig Galea and Sarah Bonnici

PRESS RELEASE

LUDWIG GALEA and SARAH BONNICI (pictures above) line-up again for Mgarr setting of the 3rd Edition of Stage & Proms on the Sea by the Gozo Youth Wind Band



Preparations are in full swing for the 3rd Edition of Stage and Proms on the Sea by The Gozo Youth Wind Band on Monday 11th September, 2017. The concert will once again feature pop singers –Ludwig Galea and Sarah Bonnici interpreting various medleys against the perfect backdrop of Mgarr Harbour.

In order to offer something different to the public who will attend this outdoor musical evening, the band are proposing to bring to Gozo a colourful and audience-participating repertoire reminiscent of London West-End shows and evergreen masterpieces from the Proms.

The audience will be able to enjoy a variety of excerpts and medleys from musicals and classic encores performed in the BBC Proms Final Night held at The Royal Albert Hall.

Stage and Proms on the Sea (3rd Edition), is taking place on Monday, 11th September, 2017 starting at 8.30pm. Entrance is free of charge (standing), however tickets will be available to purchase, in support of the Gozo Youth Wind Band and Orchestra, for the Premium VIP Designated Seated area, and the price will include a welcome drink, tris of pasta and dessert. For information and reservations please email: gozowindbandorchestra@yahoo.co.uk

This event is being held in collaboration with: Ministry for Gozo, MTA, J. Portelli Projects, Gozo Culture and Information Office, Coca Cola, Visit Gozo and Mgarr Marina.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES(1) IL-BAMBINA (BABY MARY IN MALTESE) 8TH SEPTEMBER

- IN 1565 WHEN MALTA WAS UNDER THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT JOHN , WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE TURKS AND THEIR OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THEIR QUEST TO TAKE CONTROL OF EUROPE IN A SIEGE WHICH LASTED 5 MONTHS . THOUGH THE MALTESE AND THE KNIGHTS WERE HUGEY OUTNUMBERED (1:8) THEY MANAGED TO DEFEND THE LAND AND DEFEATED THE TURKS . THIS DAY COMMEMORATES THE DAY WHEN THE TURKS FINALLY WITHDREW FROM MALTA .
- IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO BETTER DEFEND ITSELF IN CASE OF FUTURE SIMILAR ATTACKS THE GRAND MASTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THAT TIME JEAN DE LA VALLETTE COMMISSIONED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CITY WHICH WAS LATER NAMED AFTER HIM , VALLETTA , WHICH IS THE CAPITAL CITY OF MALTA TODAY . SADLY LA VALLETTE DIED IN 1568 BEFORE THE CITY WAS READY AND NEVER SAW IT .



‘FUQ IL-PASSI TAL-IMGĦALLEM DIVIN’



Kont ilni bix-xewqa li mmur inżur l-Art Imqaddsa u domt naħsibha mhux hażin imma kif jgħidu, ‘ta’ bla ħsieb jirnexxi’! U llum li nħares lura lejn din iż-żjara mhix komuni jkolli ngħid li tkun hasra li jekk kull min jemmen bħali, xi darba jew oħra ma jsibx il-ħin biex jaqbad l-ajruplan u jimxi fuq dik l-art li min jaf kemm terraq fuqha Kristu Gesu’.

Žgur li meta tgi lura tibda tapprezza iktar il-Vangelu u t-twemmin kollu li nhaddnu aħna l-

insara, iktar u iktar meta jkollok jakkumanjak xi wiehed mill- patrijiet minn ta’ Giezu li għandhom il-kustodja tal-Art Imqaddsa. Konna grupp ta’ 37 ruh, fil-magħġor parti tagħhom Għawdxin li kellna jispjegalna fid-dettal kull pass li mmiddu Patri Marcello Ghirlando, bniedem għaref u istruwit li għamel snin twal jistudja u jterraq f’Nazareth, il-Galilija, Betlem, Gerasalemm u nħawi oħra marbutin mal-ħajja ta’ Sidna Gesu Kristu, Ommu Marija u l-Appostli.

Bir-riħ ta’ wiehed min uliedi rnexxielna wkoll immorru nżuru Lidda u nitolbu u nkantaw fuq il-qabar tal-Megalomatri San Gorg li x-xbieha tiegħu rajniha kemm il-darba mperrċa mat-toroq ta’ Betlem, Gerasalemm u postijiet oħra. Ghidli ftit x’jibqa’ minnek meta jirnexxilek tinzel tbus il-ħgieġa li tipprotegi l-post fejn twieled il-Bambin ta’ Betlem u tisma’ l-quddiesi li tqaddset mit-tliet sacerdoti li kienu magħna! Inkella xi thoss meta ddaħħal idek fil-hofra fejn tniżżlet b’sabta l-ghuda tas-salib bi Kristu minxur magħha; jew tbus il-qabar tiegħu tefgħa ta’ gebla bogħod; is-sensazzjoni li thoss meta titla’ l-gholja wieqfa fejn Kristu tbiddel f’dawl li jgħammex il-ghajnejn fil-preżenza ta’ Mose u Elija u l-Appostli tiegħu.

Irkibna d-dgħajsa wkoll li qasmet l-Għadira u messejna mal-ilma tal-Ġordan u xi wħud minna għamu wkoll fil-Baħar il-Mejjet fejn ma trid tagħmel l-ebda sforz biex iżżomm fil-wiċċ billi l-livell tal-preżenza tal-melħ hija waħda għolja ferm. Kienu wisq il-postijiet li żorna biex noqgħod insemmihom f’din il-kitba; tajtkom biss ftit mill-benna li ġarrabna kemm domna bogħod minn xtutna; kif jgħidu bl-Ingliż – the tip of the iceberg! Mill-ġdid intennilkom sakemm tagħtikom saħħitkom araw li darba f’ħajjithom tagħmlu bħali u żżuru l-Art Imqaddsa u tirfsu fuq dik l-art fejn xi darba l-Iben t’Alla twieled, kiber, ħa l-Passjoni, miet u irxoxta!

Mill-Korrispondent tagħa il-Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex

Settembru 2017

Excellent life-saving service by John Ridgway

Emergency Response and Rescue Corps teams are dedicated to the essential service they offer.



I was visiting Malta from Australia. On September 20, I suffered a heart attack at the Blue Lagoon, in Comino. I had no awareness that I had a heart problem and without the Emergency Response and Rescue Corps this would have been one of the worst possible locations to have a heart attack. Instead, it probably turned out to be one of the best locations.

A young woman from the rescue corps took immediate steps to deal with my pain and ensured a supply of oxygen to minimize damage to my heart muscle. She also arranged for others to contact my wife, who was unaware of my situation, and arranged emergency transport to Gozo Hospital.

The existence of the station on Comino, the skills of the crew on duty that day and the availability of essential equipment, such as oxygen, stretcher and a very fast boat to transport serious cases such as mine for expert medical treatment in Gozo are the only reasons that I am alive.


I suffered very little damage to my heart muscle due to the rapid treatment and response.

I cannot speak highly enough of the team on duty at Comino on that day. I am so very grateful to them for their dedication to this essential service. I would like to share my deepest admiration for the way in which they dealt with my situation.

Unfortunately, I do not even know the name of the young woman and the others who helped me that day. However, if they are reading this letter, I would like to let them know that I am a 54-year-old Australian who will live to 55 and more because of their help. THANKS

BEACH WARNING FLAGS


Bnadar ta' Twissija għall-Għawwiema

 **Water Closed to Public**
Hadd ma jista' jgħum għax ta periklu

 **High Hazard**
High Surf and/or Strong Currents
Baħar qawwi u kurrenti b'saħħithom

 **Medium Hazard**
Moderate Surf and/or Currents
Baħar moderat u fiit kurrenti

 **Low Hazard**
Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution
Baħar kalm, kun prudenti

 **Dangerous Marine Life**
Bram

 **Safe to swim**
Tajjeb biex tghum bejniethom

 **No swimming allowed**
Ma tistax tghum bejniethom



Emergency Response & Rescue Corps
Striving for the Safety of Others



President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, together with her husband Edgar Preca, visited the Emergency Response & Rescue Corps in Gozo later last year.

The Emergency Response Corps was one of 66 voluntary organisations which was awarded funds collected during I-Istrina. These funds were used to upgrade their ambulance fleet, so as to guarantee an even better services to the Maltese, Gozitans, tourists and visitors.

Il-Malti fil-mezzi digitali



Ikteb bil-Malti minn kompjuter, tablet jew mobile

Jekk tixtieq tikteb bil-Malti fil-mezzi digitali, għadna kemm aġġornajna l-manwal tal-kompjuter bl-istruzzjonijiet li jiggrawidaw kif tagħmel dan. Tista' tarah minn hawn taħt jew tniżżlu minn hawn.

Illum m'għadhiex problema biex tittajpja l-ittri tal-Malti (Ċċ, Ġġ, Ff, Żż, Àà, eċċ.) kemm jekk għandek kompjuter jew laptop bis-sistema Windows, kif ukoll bis-sistema Mac. M'hemm bżonn tniżżel u tinstalla xejn — kemm tattiva l-Malti bi proċedura sempliċi ta' darba, u tkun tista' tibqa' tikteb bl-Ingliż ukoll. Tista' tikteb bil-Malti wkoll minn tablet jew smartphone Android jew iOS bis-saħħa ta' żewġ apps li nholqu apposta.

B'hekk tkun tista' tikteb bil-Malti f'kull programm digitali u fil-posta elettronika wkoll, mhux fid-dokumenti biss, u tibqa' tuża t-tipi li inti mdorri/ja bihom bħall-Calibri, l-Arial, it-Times New Roman, l-Andika, il-Comic Sans, il-Helvetica, u l-bqija.

Il-manwal il-ġdid jinkludi s-sistemi Windows 8, 8.1 u 10, il-Mac, l-iOS u l-Android. Għal sistemi aktar antiki, tista' tirreferi għall-manwal ta' qablu.

F'dan il-manwal issib ukoll għadd ta' mistoqsijiet komuni, li spiss jidhrlu mingħand il-pubbliku, imwieġba.

Inheggu lil min juża l-aktar il-Malti miktub, bħall-ġurnalisti, l-għalliemi, l-awturi u l-pubblikaturi, u t-tradutturi, biex jekk ikollhom xi mistoqsija relatata ma' dan is-suġġett, jiktbu.

Tagħrif ieħor, bil-filmati, issibu mill-istazzjon tal-YouTube tal-Kunsill tal-Malti.





St John Rescue Corps – Malta



Our mission ...

"... to provide a uniformed voluntary corps of organised and fully trained adults, able to carry out rescue operations and first aid efficiently."

St John Rescue Corps was the first organisation in Malta, following the disbandment of the Civil Defence Corps, to offer a programme of rescue training for volunteers, and began to do so in 1986. Over the past 30 years the Corps has trained hundreds of volunteers. Some of these are still very much actively involved in the Corps. Others have taken up jobs in the rescue sector, such as the Civil Protection Department, the Armed Forces of Malta, and the Malta Police Force as well as other non-governmental rescue organisations. The rest still use the skills they have learned with us when they encounter emergencies at home, on the road or at their place of work.

The Rescue Corps offers a portfolio of training courses aimed at beginner and skilled rescuer level; committed to provide the highest level of instruction and facilities to volunteers and giving them the skills and knowledge to be safe and effective rescuers. St John Rescue Corps trainers continually update their skills and revise the training courses in line with international standards and developments in the rescue sector.

Apart from training Corps volunteers, the St John Rescue Corps designs and delivers bespoke training that meets the needs of other organisations and entities, as well as the community at large.

Volunteers also follow regular physical training in order to enhance their performance during rescue activities. As part of their training, volunteers are required to take part in rescue exercises organised on a regular basis by the Rescue Corps. From time to time the Rescue Corps' volunteers participate in national rescue exercises.

Committed volunteers are usually offered opportunities to follow training with professional rescue organisations in Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. It is intended to increase the number of countries where St John Rescue Corps' members can obtain training, since it is believed that the more varied the training environment, the greater the advantage reaped, in terms of preparedness a response .

St. John Rescue Corps is an affiliate member of the International Maritime Rescue Federation. **Postal Address**

St John Rescue Corps - Headquarters & Training School
Fort Madalena - Triq il-Madliena
Madliena, Swieqi, SWQ1013 Malta.

E-mail - Information & general enquiries: info@sjrcmalta.org

Vidjow VIDEO
Blower BLOWER
Diskow DISCO
Kowt COAT
Gowler GOALER
Telefown TELEPHONE
Fowlder FOLDER
Gowker JOKER

Il-kawlata tal-kliem Ingliz misluf fil-Malti www.tvm.com.mt | Ruth

Castillo

Il-kawlata fil-kitba tal-kliem Ingliz li daħal fil-lingwa Maltija u l-ortografija tiegħu għadha qed tħabbel moħħ il-Kunsill

Nazzjonali tal-ilsien Malti li madankollu qed jaħseb li f'qasir żmien joħroġ bid-deċiżjoni tiegħu u jagħti regoli u direzzjoni kif għandhom jinkitbu bosta kliem misluf fil-Malti mill-Ingliz..

"Ir-regola prezenti li hemm tgħidlek li jekk kelma daħlet fil-Malti inti għandek tiktibha fonetikament jiġifieri kif tħossha kif tismagħha tiktibha u hawnhekk jibdwew il-problemi mbagħad."

Kif jispegja Dr Farrugia b'dan il-metodu mhux kollox ward u zahar. Irrimarka li waħda mill-problemi hi li mhux kulhadd ilissen l-istess kelma bl-istess mod.

"Hemm min jgħidlek festival u *festivil* x'se nikteb jiena liema hi t-tajba festival jew *festivil* u għandek kliem ieħor ngħidu aħna cupboard. *Kaberd* ha nikteb jew *kabord*."

Id-diffikultajiet ma jiqfux hawn... għax il-kliem Ingliz fil-Malti mhux biss jinkiteb kif jinstema' iżda jeħtieġ li jsegwi r-regoli tal-Malti. Dr Farrugia semma l-eżempju ta' kliem bħal team (tjijm) u diese l(dijzil), li fihom tinstema l-"j" iżda skont ir-regoli tal-Malti għandhom jinkitbu mingħajrha.

"Bħalha għandek il-kelma scooter qed tisma l-ħoss ta' w imma skont ir-regoli tal-Malti ma tistax tiktibha dik il-w." Meta wieħed jikkonjuga l-verb... m'għandux iħallat l-Ingliz u l-Malti fl-istess kelma.

"Eżempju l-verb *tikkowċja*. Jekk ha nħalli l-verb bl-Ingliz... kif se niktibha nicoachja jiġifieri jekk se niktibha bil-Malti niktibha kollha bil-Malti ma titsax tħalli biċċa bl-Ingliz u biċċa bil-Malti."

Il-kelma Maltija għandha dejjem tingħata preferenza u m'għandux jinħoloq kliem ġdid b'kapriċċ.

"Darba smajt lil xi ħadd pereżempju jgħidlek għaliex ma nużawx il-kelma ħussab minflok kompjuter. Issa jekk jien se nmur għand tal-ħanut ha ngħidli tni ħussab ġdid ma jifhimix qed tifhem trid tkun realistiku."

Ħafna għadhom inċerti dwar liema kliem jiktbu bl-Ingliz jew liema kliem Ingliz jiktbu kif jisimgħu. Għaldaqstant id-diskussjoni dwar kif għandhom jinkitbu dawn il-kliem li qed jitwaħħdu fl-ilsien Malti għadha għaddejja.



F'ħafna ilsna l-isem Google sar ifisser magna tat-tiftix fuq l-internet, tkun liema tkun. U spiss dawn il-lingwi jnissu wkoll verb minnu, bit-tifsira ta' tfittex xi tagħrif online: bl-Ingliz "to google", bil-Ġermaniz "googeln", bit-Taljan "googlare", bil-Kroat "guglati". Anki bil-Malti tista' "tiggugilja". U jekk trid tista' "tittwitja" (Twitter), "tiskajpja" (Skype) u "tinstagramma" (Instagram). Jekk tiggugiljahom, kollha jitilgħulek.





Mary Rose Mallia honoured at 41st L-Għanja tal-Poplu music festival

Jessica Magro placed first in the yearly festival

Jessica Magro performs her winning song.
Photo: Geoffrey Buhagiar

A song about the tragedy of conflict across the globe has won this year's edition of the L-Għanja tal-Poplu festival. Jessica Magro took home first prize for her song *Meta r-Ramel Jithallat Mas-Silġ*, which was written by Paul Ellul and composed by Pamela Bezzina.

She beat Dario and Grecia Bezzina, who placed second with their song *13, Strada Stretta*. The song, about a barmaid who's desperate to earn an extra buck, was composed by Mr Bezzina with lyrics by Emil Calleja Bayliss.

Singer-songwriters Xarulù placed third with their humorous take on the fast pace of modern-day life *Rutina Tgħallina*. The song also won an award for best recording at Jubox Recording House.

Held yesterday, this was the 41st edition of the L-Għanja tal-Poplu festival.

Monica Said sang *Ritratt*, written and composed by Philip Vella, and went home with a prize for best interpretation. Odelsie Camilleri's *Narak Kuntent* won most original song, while Ryan Grech was named best singer-songwriter with his song *Min Jaf*.

Mary Rose Mallia was awarded the festival's *L-Għanja li Tibqa* award in honour of a singing career spanning 50 years. She regaled the Pjazza Teatru Rjal audience with three famous songs from her repertoire: *Il-Festa*, *Din L-Omm minn Ġensna* and *Is-Saħħara ta' Wied Għafid*.

Sarah Lee Zammit and Clifford Galea presented the festival, with comic relief provided by Aiken Buhagiar. The Malta Concert Orchestra's 40 members, led by Maestro Joe Brown, were on hand to accompany the singers. L-Għanja tal-Poplu is a yearly music festival organised with the aid of the Academy of the Maltese Language, with help from Arts Council Malta. The festival will be aired on national television in the coming days.

Timesofmalta.com

