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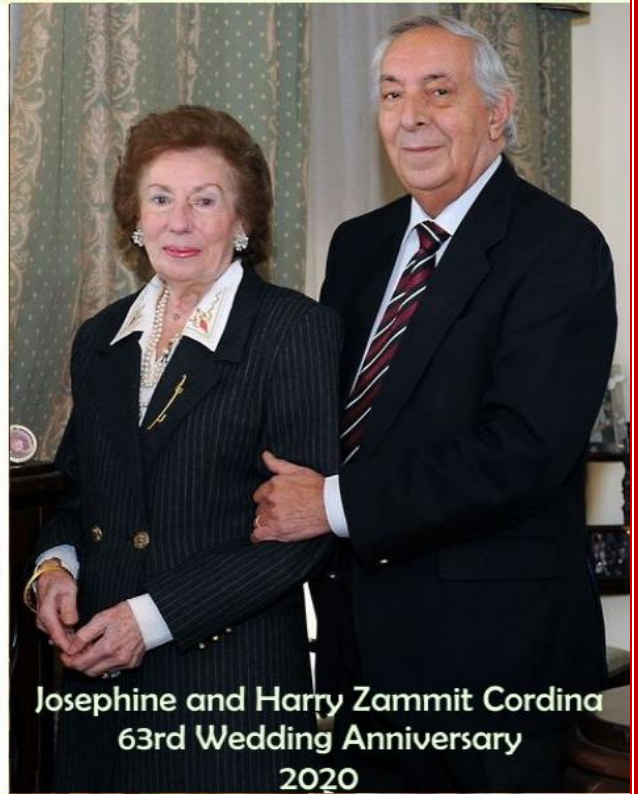
# Maltese eNewsletter

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

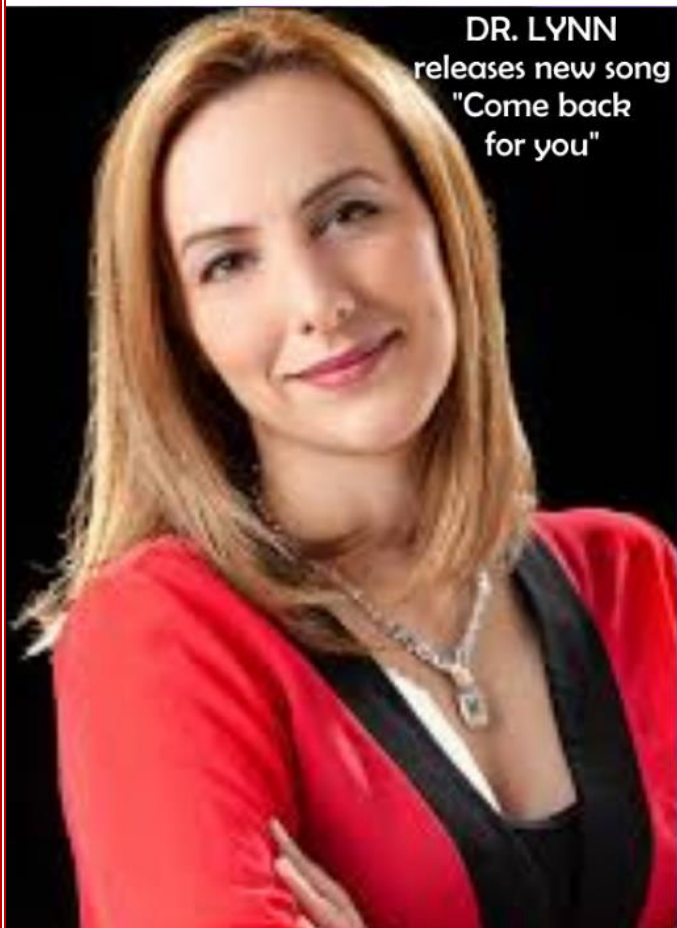
Editor: Frank L Scicluna



Australian High Commissioner,  
Jenny Cartmill meets  
Archbishop of Malta Charles Scicluna



Josephine and Harry Zammit Cordina  
63rd Wedding Anniversary  
2020



DR. LYNN  
releases new song  
"Come back  
for you"







H.E. Monsignor Anton Thewma  
The 9th Bishop of Gozo

## Mgr. Anton Teuma installed Bishop of Gozo

In a short address at the end of the celebrated mass, Mgr. Teuma said used a metaphor in saying that he wanted everyone to be part of the crew of the boat that is the church. He said that everyone should seek to live the values of Jesus Christ: "in the way in which we respect each other, love each other, support those who are suffering and have fallen behind."

Fr Anton Teuma has been installed as the new Bishop of Gozo, effectively taking over the seat occupied since 2005 by Mgr Mario Grech, who is taking on a new role at the Vatican.

The ceremony took place at the Xewkija parish church, and it had to be anticipated from September because of new measures linked with the containment of the spread of Coronavirus.



"If we love Jesus, but do not mention he will not be offended. When a mother sees their children living her values, she will not worry or be concerned because the child does not say where he has been taught from. Jesus Christ is the same", he said.

Fr. Teuma, 56, served in the Xaghra parish. He becomes the ninth bishop since Gozo became a diocese in 1864.

During his preparation to become a priest, he worked as a welder and electrician in Australia, obtaining a licence in both trades.

He was ordained a priest in 1988 by former bishop of Gozo Nikol Cauchi.

He served in the parish of St Ignatius in Rome as a parish vicar, and was brought back to Gozo in 1997 to be appointed rector of the seminary, a post he occupied for 10 years.

Between 1998 and 2016, he was also spiritual assistance of the diocese's eucharistic communities.

He spent a year in the Holy Land where he obtained a diploma in biblical studies in Jerusalem. He obtained a degree in science in 2016 and a post-graduate diploma in family psychotherapy in 2018.

Mgr. Mario Grech, who has held the post since 2005, has been appointed by Pope Francis as General Pro-Secretary of the Synod of Bishops.

The editor and the readers of this Maltese Journal of Maltese Living Abroad congratulate Mgr Teuma and wish him God's blessings during his important mission as Bishop of Gozo.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSEPHINE AND HARRY ZAMMIT CORDINA ON THEIR 63<sup>RD</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

25 august 2020

Born at Hamrun, Josephine Zammit Cordina attended the secondary school in Sliema, the British School at Suez in Egypt, and the Secretarial College, Reading, UK.

Cordina is a well-known actress for television, and stage productions. She presented and directed several programs for both radio and television. She was the producer of *Waltzing Matilda*, a very popular TV programme about Maltese in Australia on Maltese and Australian TV Programs.

In 1987 Zammit Cordina was in Canada where she featured in a ten-hour telethon for cable TV in Ontario, Canada in aid of the *Dar tal-Providenza, Siggiewi*. In 1988 she produced for SBS Radio Australia a series of 28 programs about the Grand Masters of the Order of St John in Malta, entitled "*Minn L-Isle Adam sa Hompesh*". She was member of the Film and Stage Censorship Board (1988-91) and of the *Kummissjoni ghal-Maltin ta' Barra* (1991-94). In 1995 she was appointed chairperson.

In 1993 Zammit Cordina was awarded the *Manoel de Vilbena Award* by the Harmonic 65 Culture Centre of Melbourne, Australia for her outstanding contribution to the propagation of Maltese arts and culture in this country. In 1995 she was awarded the *Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika (MQR)*. On Australia day January 26, 2004, the Australian Government has awarded Mrs. Josephine Zammit Cordina with the Australia Medal of Honorary Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.



*Cordina, Virgil Bugeja and Tony Cutajar with former Australian High Commissioner Jane Lambert (second from left).*



**JOSEPHINE AND HARRY ZAMMIT CORDINA  
HAPPY 63<sup>RD</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**



Josephine married Harry 63 years ago in Hamrun, Malta. Harry said on his Facebook page: "Wow it is the 25th of August again, this time in 2020 which marks our (Josephine's and mine) 63rd wedding anniversary. Like many others it was a journey with various ups and downs (especially now at our age) but thank God and the Virgin Mary we managed it nicely. No secrets to it- love and respect and above all no egoism".

*Recipients of the Order of Australia Medal,  
Mgr Philip Calleja, Josephine Zammit*

**On behalf of the editorial team and the readers of the Journal of Maltese living abroad I wish you both, on this special occasion, happiness, health and most importantly God's blessings – Frank Scicluna – Adelaide Australia**





*Father Joseph Grima is the  
founding Pastor of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam  
Parish in Markham, Ontario, Canada*

After a long and cold winter, God's beautiful blessings of warm sunshine, green grass and flowers blooming has put the pep back in my step. In my 18 years of priesthood, I have just embarked on my most exciting and challenging assignment yet, having been the pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Ajax for nearly four years. One year ago, I was entrusted with the task of building, growing and nurturing a brand new parish in the Markham East area of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The parish will be the first in North America that bears the name of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. He was the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, an organization built on caring for the poor with an emphasis on respecting the individual dignity of each person.

Antoine Frédéric Ozanam (commonly called Frédéric) was born on April 23, 1813 in Milan, Italy, the son of a doctor in medicine and a

## "On this Rock" - Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

daughter of a shopkeeper. Two years later, the Ozanam family moved back to their home town of Lyon, France. Frédéric was the fifth of 14 children, only four of whom survived. In his youth, Frédéric experienced doubts about the Catholic faith, but was strongly influenced by one of his teachers at the College de Lyon, the priest Abbé Noirod.

The excitement of building a new parish comes with some apprehension of the daunting task before us. Our first task is to secure a suitable piece of land on which to build our parish. Then we'll have the job of working with architects and builders to design and construct the new church building.

In the meantime, we have been building a strong spiritual community while celebrating weekday and weekend masses at our local parish schools. We started regular masses on Sept. 10, 2017, the day after the annual feast day of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. This was a fitting start to our new venture, and every year going forward, we will honour and remember him on that day. At present, we worship in St. Julia Billiard Catholic Elementary School.

While the logistics of this arrangement are not ideal, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to get to know the warm and welcoming community that will become the parish family of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, as well as for the many who so graciously and generously give of their time and talent as we embark on this exciting journey together. In a particular way, I am most grateful for the support and friendship of the York Catholic District School Board, who provide us with the space to worship out of St. Julia Billiard.

I pray I will have the chance to keep you updated on our efforts and progress. I know God will guide us well and we will feel His loving presence in this new parish, where all will be welcomed to come home to our Father's House. I invite you to visit our website at [www.blessedozanam.ca](http://www.blessedozanam.ca) to find out more about how we are building God's Church on this rock - that being, the rock of eastern Markham.

Journal of the  Maltese Diaspora  
**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**

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## Over 7,000 Maltese families served 20,000 meals by Victory Kitchen charity



By [Support@Northernnews.Com](mailto:Support@Northernnews.Com) On Aug 25, 2020

Founder Rafel Sammut

A cooperative of meals institutions and cooks have fed over 6,000 households in Malta with 19,000 meals within the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food charity, run via a community of eating places, social employees and logistics corporations, is spearheaded by Rafel Sammut of Brijju Restaurant, and quite a few cooks who joined forces to assist as many individuals as attainable throughout these tough occasions.

"Only one week after shutting our doorways because of the COVID-19 pandemic, my cooks and I have been already feeling stressed and bored at residence," Sammut stated. "That night throughout my day by day dialog with a detailed good friend who works on the hospital, we exchanged concepts and certainly one of them caught – Victory Kitchen. The following day, I proposed this idea to my brother and fellow cooks, their suggestions was encouraging and so off we went with the intention of feeding one household a day." From feeding simply 16 households within the first week, that quantity climbed to 54 every week later, then 74. Up to now, Victory Kitchen has helped 6,621 households, by donating over 19,576 meals.

Victory Kitchen will now be organising a fundraising occasion in September. "We'd like all the assistance we will get to succeed in our purpose, and for this reason we're internet hosting a fundraising occasion," Sammut stated. "This entails a swim ranging from Ċirkewwa, going round Comino, as much as Gozo and going again to Ċirkewwa, overlaying a complete of 15.1km. The precise date and beginning location will likely be confirmed afterward, relying on climate circumstances."

Sammut stated these wishing to assist, can take part by donating €100, or contact Victory Kitchen on 99906056. Funds will likely be used to feed households in want.

"There are literally thousands of households which might be nonetheless in want. Victory Kitchen interprets humble meals into hope, religion, and braveness for individuals who may in any other case stay hungry. We intend to proceed our companies on a everlasting bases and hopefully attain out to much more individuals over the approaching months," Sammut stated.

Along with Hany Harb from Alibaba restaurant, Jean Galea Souchet from Cleland & Souchet, Robert Bonello, Zack De Marco and Marko Pavlovic, Sammut was additionally a part of the group that headed to Beirut to help households affected by the current tragedy by cooking hundreds of meals and distributing 1000kg of uncooked produce.



### URGENT APPEAL

God Gave Us Two Hands One Hand To Receive the Other To Give !  
Donations To Id- Dar Tal-Providenza Can Be Made at any  
Commonwealth Bank:

A/C Friends Of Providence House NSW :  
BSB 062 416 A/C No.10199448 . No Fees Apply.  
Or Contact Jim Borg 0418825591  
NSW Australia

## ENJOY A TASTE OF MALTA

**Kinnie**

**Twistees**  
A DELICIOUS CRISP SAVOURY SNACK

**Galletti**

**Kunsera**

**AVAILABLE LOCATIONS:**  
THE MALTA BAKE SHOP  
MALTA'S FINEST PASTRIES  
JOE'S PASTIZZI  
NANNU'S PASTIZZI

**ADDITIONAL KINNIE LOCATIONS:**  
STARSKY'S FINE FOODS - MISSISSAUGA/HAMILTON  
CORDI BAKERY - MISSISSAUGA  
DI GIOVANNI BAKERY - BRAMPTON  
NO FRILLS - MARKHAM  
COFFEE TIME - ROCKWOOD MALL  
MALTA BAND CLUB  
MELITA SOCCER CLUB

**LOCATION/DELIVERY INFORMATION? PLEASE CALL:**  
JOE SHERRI 416-571-3944 maltesefoods@gmail.com





## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Parents of children who go online

My family | My EU rights and freedoms

If you are a parent, you will probably already have spent time trying to work out how best to protect your child when they go online. Today, one in three internet users is a child. But as well as opportunities and advantages, the internet can present [dangers](#) for children and young people, who might accidentally access inappropriate content, be exposed to online predators, or fall victim to cyberbullying. Children can easily be [exposed](#) to adult material online, where access may be unrestricted (for example, 23 of

the top 25 adult websites visited by UK internet users provide instant, free and unrestricted access to hard-core pornographic videos). Parental supervision and monitoring of the online activity of children is therefore essential.

In 2012 the European Commission adopted a [European strategy](#) to make the internet a better place for children. Based on the EU's [Safer Internet Programme](#), it aims to empower both children and parents by providing an overview of the existing parental control tools and supporting them in the selection of tools that best match their needs. Also, the new [General Data Protection Regulation](#), which entered into force in May 2018, has introduced [additional protection](#) for children's data and addressed the question of the age limit (between 13 and 16 – to be defined by each EU country) below which parental consent is needed in order to process a child's personal data. Since 2011, the EU has had a legal framework in place to prevent [sexual online child abuse](#).

<https://what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/A12>



## Malta Film Weekend is coming soon

This year's edition with the slogan "Connecting through filmmaking" will be held online and is aiming to reach audiences from Malta and beyond.

Similar to many other festivals and workshops around the world, Malta Film Foundation will be hosting its second edition of MFW online due to restrictions brought about by COVID-19.

This new approach might be a challenging experience but provides an amazing opportunity for the event to venture beyond the Maltese Islands and reach more people interested in filmmaking wherever they are.

During the three days of MFW, we will offer open workshops available for everyone as well as meetings dedicated only for a small group of participants.

From the comfort of your couch in Malta or maybe while on the bus in France, from the screen of your laptop or mobile phone - with one click and Malta Film Weekend will visit you wherever you are. Just register your interest while signing up [HERE](#) and receive the event's details first!

For more details coming soon visit our website: [maltafilmfoundation.com](https://maltafilmfoundation.com)

**Malta Film Weekend is supported by Arts Council Malta.**



**The appeal  
letter of  
the President of the  
Lebanese Association of the  
Order of Malta**

*Beirut, Tuesday the 11th of August 2020*

Dear friends,

After the apocalypse, the lightning and the massive explosion, One week after the sounds

of glass shattering, roofs, walls and doors blowing, people screaming and children crying, Here we are, in the middle of a heartbroken city and an ever-wounded country.

A country that has been suffering on-going wars and crisis, since the Sovereign Order of Malta started its official diplomatic relations in 1955.

All through the civil war, the Israeli occupation, the Syrian occupation, the 2006 war with Israel and the Syrian refugees' crisis since 2011, the Lebanese Association has been relentlessly and, in all humility, serving the most vulnerable population of all denominations all over the Lebanese territory in the most remote and forgotten areas, with a unique agenda of respecting the dignity of every suffering person. Today my country is bleeding, not only from the explosion but from 30 years of corruption, clientelism and mismanagement that have led to the severe economic, financial, social and sanitary crisis, toppled by the Covid19 pandemic. My fellow citizens are sick, hungry and in despair, they are hostages of a dysfunctional system in their own country.

Our mission is to keep giving the hope by serving and caring for each person who needs our help, always with a smile and a gentle hand.

Our mission is to give them the strength to fight and remain in this holy land as we still believe in Lebanon, the message of Saint John Paul II. Today more than ever, after witnessing the unity of its people and the amazing will and dedication of its youth.

One week after the blast, 300,000 houses have been destroyed, 7,000 persons have been wounded and more than 171 have died. Our association has already mobilized its troops and adapted its services to respond to the aftermath by providing free healthcare services to the most impacted areas as 12 Primary health care centers, 5 major hospitals and the main state drugs warehouse were severely damaged. We opened our center in Chabrouh to welcome, in full accommodation free of charge, families whose houses have been shattered and who need more than a shelter, a peaceful home to heal their hearts and souls.

More than 300 Youth volunteers are on the field every day, cleaning houses, providing ready-to-eat food and meals, evaluating damages in certain dedicated areas for refurbishment.

A team of experts from Malteser International and the Pierre Fabre Foundation are currently assessing the needs that will determine the next steps we will undertake for a long and sustainable recovery.

In the meantime, our 10 primary healthcare centers, 6 mobile medical units and all our other projects dedicated to the vulnerable, the sick, the elderly and the differently-abled persons, are still very much active as the crisis deepens all over the country and the needs keep growing by the day.

You have been many to call, to write and to message us, inquiring about our safety and asking for ways to help, we can never thank you enough!

Faith, Fraternity and Love will save this world.

Today, one week after the blast, we ask you to keep Lebanon in your thoughts and prayers and if you wish to donate, you will find in annex the different options that will facilitate the process.

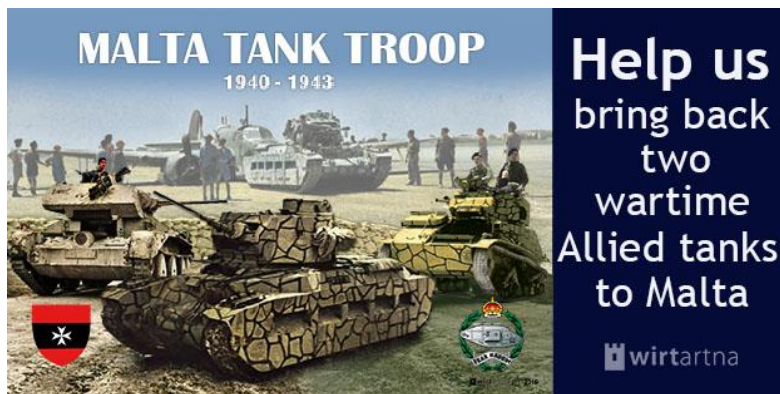
God Bless,

Marwan Sehnaoui

For those who wish to help, all donation details are available on the website of the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta:

<http://orderofmaltalebanon.org/donate/>

## ACQUISITION OF TWO WARTIME TANKS



During WW2 Malta had a small tank force made up from five types of British tanks - Matilda, Vickers Light Tank, Cruiser Tank A9, Cruiser tank A13 and the Valentine tank. These were sent out at different intervals to boost the defence of the island against an AXIS invasion. In 1943, more tanks arrived mostly U.S. made but this time in preparation for the invasion of Sicily - Operation Husky. Since then tanks became a rarity on the island. Now after some 70 years, the Malta Heritage Trust has acquired

two original tanks: a Matilda and an M3 Stuart tank to place on display at its new Military Vehicles Museum Exhibition part of the Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta. The two tanks are funded solely through donations and the Trust needs to pay back the bank loan taken on them. It also needs to raise more funding to build a permanent shelter and display space for the same, right next to the Lascaris War Rooms in Valletta, Malta.

The addition of the tanks and the new museum display space will go a long way to first commemorate the unsung tank crews who at the height of World War Two defended Malta and will also greatly augment the overall visitor experience at the war rooms. In case of the amount being asked is exceeded the Trust will attempt to acquire a third tank for the collection an M3 Lee Grant tank, or an M4 Sherman tank or a M7 Priest self-propelled artillery.



## KALKARA – MALTA

Perched on the edge of the Grand Harbour is Kalkara, a picturesque seaside village that rises into the limestone cliffs. It gets its name from the Maltese word "gir", meaning "lime".

The huge domed neo-classical church with its shimmering dome is so close to the sea that waves practically lap at its doorstep during high tide!

On 21 November 1943, Rev. Carmelo Xuereb was officially installed as the third parish priest of Kalkara. His main duty was to rebuild the

parish church and the community of Kalkara after these were destroyed through World War II.

In 1944 a temporary church was inaugurated in the ex-Malta Gas Works stores. During this period, a new design for the new parish church was approved. This was made by Chev. Vincenzo Bonello with the necessary help of Joseph D'Amato. Having a neo-classical design, the new parish church was to be built in another place from where it previously stood.

The first stone of the new church was blessed on 13 October 1946 and it took nearly six years to be fully built up. All the residents of Kalkara gave a helping hand in this project, even women and children. The building is a masterpiece in sculpture in Maltese globigerina limestone.

The church was duly finished by 7 September 1952 when it was blessed by Mons. Gonzi. The church was consecrated on 12 December 1954.

Over the years, several works of art have been made to decorate "one of the most splendid churches built after World War II".

Recently restored by the Restoration Directorate, this is St. Barbara's church and friary in Kalkara, south-eastern Malta.

Also known as St. Liberata's church or simply tal-Kapuċċini, in 1736 the Capuchins started building the church and friary on the road leading from Zabbar to Kalkara. As a matter of fact, the Capuchin convent and St. church have always been referred to as 'Fuori la Mura', or 'outside the bastions' surrounding the city.



# AKKADEMJA TAL-MALTI

## MARLENE MIFSUD

### CHIRCOP

Marlene Mifsud Chircop twieldet fit-23 ta' Mejju 1950. Studjat fl-Università ta' Malta fejn ipprezentat l-ewwel teži tagħha għall-B.A. "Il-Folklor fir-Rumanz Storiku/Romantiku Malti" (1972) u t-tieni teži għall-MA "A Motif-Index of the Maltese Folktale". Għallmet il-Malti fis-sekondarja fil-Kulleġġ ta' San Alwiġi Għamlet ukoll id-Diploma fit-Traduzzjoni u l-Interpretazzjoni u għal bosta snin għallmet l-Ingliż fl-Istitut tan-Negozju u l-Kummerċ (MCAST).



Marlene ħadmet mal-folklorista Ġuże Cassar Pullicino u mal-mibki imma qatt minsi żewġha, il-folklorista antropologiku Dr Ġorġ Mifsud Chircop u kompliet bir-riċerka fin-narrattiva popolari, fl-irakkuntar u fl-għana Malti, b'mod speċjali l-element kulturali u soċjali fl-għana tal-fatt.

Kienet tiddeskrivi ruħha bħala 'għalliema u riċerkatriċi indipendenti' u flimkien ma' żewġha, ikkoproduċiet u pprezentat 26 dokumentarju kulturali ta' 45 minuta għat-televisin: *lx-xogħol Waħdu Jurik* (1996) u *Fuq Għajnejk* (2001) taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Alvin Scicluna u għar-radju *Maltese Folklore in the Modern World* (2000) u *A Folk Festival in Malta* (2003). Interpretat u ttraduċiet kemm-il darba l-għana u l-irakkuntar waqt festivals f'Malta u barra.

Ħadet sehem f'konferenzi f'Malta u barra, fejn ipprezentat fost l-oħrajn "Mnarja – a Midsummer's Festival in Contemporary Malta" (Gothenburg 2006), "Maltese Folk Narrative" (Isle of Bute 2011), "Good Friday Processions in Contemporary Malta" (Innsbruck 2014), "The First Ten Years of the Maltese Folk singing Festival" (Malta 2014), *The Development of Maltese Ballads* (Malta 2014).

Barra diversi sessjonijiet tal-għana u tal-irakkuntar, kemm f'Malta kif ukoll barra, ikkoorganizzat l-attività kulturali "Grimani Min Qatlu?" għal Science in the City (Malta 2014). Sentejn wara, fl-2016, flimkien ma' Fr Montebello ippubblikat il-ktieb *Min Qatel il-Patri?* Bi studju speċjalizzat tagħha fuq il-ballati Maltin.

Matul l-aħħar snin ta' ħajjitha, Marlene ħadmet fuq l-aġġornament tal-kitbiet ta' żewġha u kompliet l-istudji tagħha tal-ballati folkloristiċi u t-traduzzjonijiet orali fil-kultura Maltija. Hija mhux biss ikkontribwiet fis-sensiela dwar It-Traduzzjoni Orali organizzata mid-Dipartiment tal-Malti fl-Università ta' Malta imma wkoll ħadet ħsieb it-tnejn professjonali ta' riċerkaturi żgħażaġħ biex dan il-qasam ikompli jiżviluppa. Fl-istess hin, id-Dipartiment kien qed jgħin lil Marlene tiddokumenta l-kitbiet akkademiċi u l-materjal etnografiku tagħha u ta' żewġha biex ikunu aċċessibbli għal dawk li jixtiequ jispeċjalizzaw fl-etnografija ta' Malta u tal-Mediterran.

Dr Adrian Grima ddeskrivieha bħala "ħabiba, kollega, u riċerkatriċi li ħadmet bla heda, tul ħajjitha kollha, sal-aħħar, fuq it-tradizzjonijiet orali tagħna u fuq il-folklor b'mod ġenerali. Din hija telfa kbira għalina lkoll. Imma huwa wkoll il-mument biex nerġġhu niringrazzjawha tal-kontribut imprezzabbli tagħha."

Marlene Mifsud Chircop mietet fis-26 ta' Awwissu 2020. Il-funeral tagħha sar illum, 29 ta' Awwissu 2020 fil-Knisja Parrokkjali tal-Mosta u kienu preżenti rappreżentanti mill-Kunsill tal-Akkademja tal-Malti kif ukoll membri mid-Dipartiment tal-Malti tal-Università.

<https://www.facebook.com/akkademjatalmalti/>

## John Grima GCOSJ 1933 - 2020 TORONTO - VICTIM OF Covid-19

John Grima passed away on March 29, 2020. At the age of 88 year, in the City of Toronto, where he spent almost 70 years, where he met his wife, had his children, and helped raise his large extended family.



Born in Rabat, Malta, John immigrated to Canada in 1951. He fell in love with a Canadian girl, and so meeting her, decided to forget his Hollywood dreams, and marry her. He never left his acting dreams behind though. He was cast as a leading man in many professional stage productions, radio plays, as well as television, working in the early days of the CBC and in several American productions. In 1958 he debuted on the silver screen in film, working with many great actors of the day. He was honoured with Knighthood, in the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, otherwise known as the Knights of Malta.

The Dame in his life was Edith (nee Porteous), of 67 years, of whom he devoted his life and heart to. Together, they were blessed with four children: John Jr., Victor (Louisa), Marie-Rose, and Georgina. He was the adored Papa and "King of Malta" to: Karina (Darren), Adrienne (Jay), Stephanie (Adam), Lauren (Bronson), Evan, Andrew (Tricia), and Johnathan (Kari). Beloved great grandfather: to Courtney, Emily, Faith, Abigail, Annabelle, Madison, Jayden, Myla, Elliott, Liam, Emmett, Connor, and Olivia. He will be lovingly remembered by his brother Nick (the late Vera) of Windsor, Ontario, and his family, as well as many other family and dear friends. He was taken from us very quickly by Covid-19. As a result of this Pandemic, only ten of his family attended the private graveside for him, at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. In the meantime, please keep Edith, Georgina, Marie-Rose and Victor in your prayers as they go through mandatory isolation without being able to see him laid to rest.



### CULTURE

Malta and Gozo are full of shrines, statues or niches. Floriana also reflects Malta's religious heritage with many niches holding statues of revered saints. Chief among them is the one dedicated to Our Lady Of Lourdes.

Nestled high up inside a huge corner shrine rising from a huge pedestal, among the traditional 'gallarijas' of a typically Maltese residential area, this niche is adored by locals.

It is still common practice for devout passersby to pay their respects by reciting a short prayer, making the sign of the cross or blowing kisses at the shrine as they walk by.

The statue dates back to 1888.

From ColoursOfMalta .com.

The tradition of setting up niches in streets dates back to the Roman era. In Christian times, images of Christ, Our Lady and Christian Saints, replaced those of Roman Gods. These niches were often decorated and lit, thus paying homage to the image within, as well as providing some illumination during the night.

When Valletta was being built in 1569 Grandmaster Pietro del Monte enacted that corner houses had to display some architectural ornamentation such as a statue, a niche, or a coat of arms.



The niches and statues have an important part in the religious and social tradition of the people of Malta and Gozo. We can see them where least expected, in every city, town and village of our islands.

All through the ages men used statues to give a more humane aspect to the local environment. In our Maltese society, our religion gave us the statues and our streets provided us with the space where to put them, that is in the corner of building blocks and other similar locations.

Many hold that this tradition of showing devotion to saints represented by means of statues and niches go back at least to the times of the Romans, who used to erect niches and put up statue of their false gods in the villages and the countryside as a sign of protection.

Later on the Christian missionaries saw it fit to keep these traditions but change the images to those pertaining to our Religion.

Photo © Kappa Vision / Jean-Paul Borg

For all my latest photos, please visit and like Kappa Vision on Facebook.

## Siege Bell War Memorial



The Siege Bell War Memorial occupies the lower part of St. Christopher Bastion, facing the harbor and the town of Valletta. This WWII memorial features simple, yet symbolic design underlining a link between generations of Malta defenders. Tourists like its modest greatness that blends perfectly into the age-old environment and natural landscape.

During WWII, Malta had to go through the second siege of the island resulted from attempts of the Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy to capture this Mediterranean naval base

controlled by the British Empire. Due to its important geographical position between Italy and Africa, Malta played a key role both for the Allies and Axis Powers. The very next day after Italy declared war on Britain and France, the Italian Air Force attacked Malta, where a garrison of just 4,000 soldiers and a few old biplanes were accommodated. From 1940 to 1943 the Maltese and the British successfully defended the island and even conducted offensive military operations in the Mediterranean, but Malta suffered heavily from hunger and bombings. The island was one of the most heavily bombed areas during WWII, and more than 7,000 soldiers and civilians were killed there. In 1942, Malta was awarded The George Cross by King George VI to appreciate heroism of its inhabitants and defenders.

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of this award, the memorial was built and unveiled by Queen Elizabeth. It features a majestic rotunda with a heavy bronze bell decorated with an image of Madonna in flame. The base of the tower is covered by commemorative plaques, while one of the staircases leads to another pedestal, on which a bronze soldier rests, symbolizing those killed in the war. There is a metal memorial tablet saying "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them", and every day at noon the bell rings in memory of the war victims.

Dedicated to the tragic events, the memorial leaves a lasting impression due to its thoughtful location overlooking the harbor. The environment invites to thorough understanding of the profound significance of this memorial, at the same time allowing to enjoy the beautiful views of the sea and surrounding cityscape.



*We are still growing and going strong*  
If you like to receive this journal regularly  
Send an email to Frank: [maltesejournal@gmail.com](mailto:maltesejournal@gmail.com)



## TRADITIONAL PILGRIMAGE AT BIRZEBBUĠA



### St Peter is taken on pilgrimage across sea

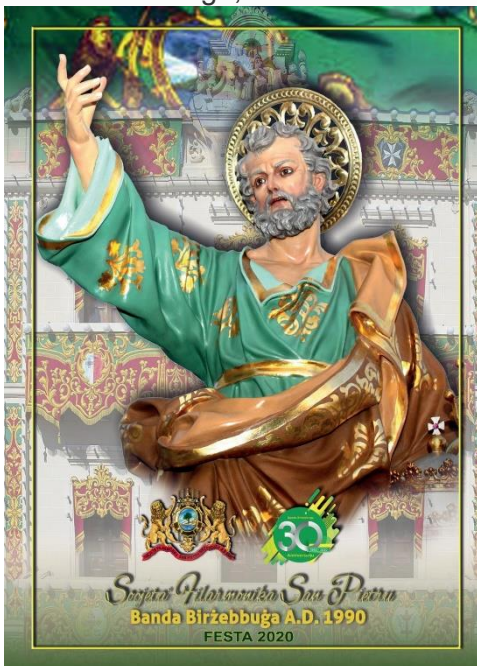
The seaside town of Birżebbuġa holds an annual tradition celebrating its patron saint, St Peter, a fisherman who became the first Bishop of Rome or Pope.

The tradition, unique to the locality, sees a statue of the saint placed on a fishing boat (lanċa) and taken on a pilgrimage across the sea from St George's Bay to Pretty Bay, popularly known among locals as Ix-Xatt. Numerous sea vessels of all kinds follow the statue as it glides through the water.

Parishioners follow the spectacle from different vantage points along the coast to then gather at Pretty Bay where they welcome the contingent to the tune of band marches.

Once ashore, the statue is carried around the town followed by band club musicians and revellers. It is then mounted on top of a pedestal in Pretty Bay, where it stays until the liturgical celebrations of St Peter in Chains come to an end on Sunday evening.

"About 40 boats usually take part in the sea pilgrimage but they may number around 60 on special occasions such as anniversaries," Alex Caruana, president of the Soċjetà Filarmonika San Pietru Banda Birżebbuġa, said.



He explains that the sea pilgrimage was first held as a one-off event by the parish church in 1974 to welcome the titular statue after gilding works were carried out. In 1983, it was then decided that the sea pilgrimage should be held annually. The event eventually started being organised by the locality's two band clubs.

When Banda Birżebbuġa was founded in 1990, it ordered a statue of St Peter from renowned artist Alfred Camilleri Cauchi. The sculpture was inaugurated a year later and was carried in a sea pilgrimage for the first time on August 2, 1991. "That year, the event started off in Marsaxlokk," Mr Caruana recalled. "We still leave from there on special occasions," he added. This happened two years ago with the parish church's titular statue, after it was restored by Aaron Camilleri Cauchi.

On June 29 of the same year, when the Catholic Church commemorated the 1,950th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Peter and St Paul, the band club's statue made a trip to Rabat as the parish church is dedicated to St Paul.

Later on in the year, during the festa week, the band club took its statue on a carcade to Rabat once again, Safi and Valletta – all of which celebrate the feast of St Paul – before embarking on the annual sea pilgrimage.

This year all external festivities were cancelled for health reasons and in connection with Covid-19







## BIRKIRKARA

Birkirkara is one the largest, oldest and most heavily populated city in the centre of Malta with 25,775 inhabitants in an area of 2.7 km<sup>2</sup>. The Old Railway Station, a memory from Malta's railway past, can be found in Birkirkara and can still be visited today, with a public garden around it. Malta's perhaps most beautiful church, St Helen Basilica can also be found in this town.

Besides its beauty, the church is also famous for having Malta's largest bell. The first bell of the St Helen's Basilica was manufactured in 1891 by caster Ġuże' Grech; it weighed 105 rotolos and it cost 10,600 'skudi'. It was dismantled due to defects, but he said that Birkirkara residents commissioned Grech for another bell in 1914, which had the same fate as the previous bell.

The current big bell was commissioned in 1931, weighs 100 rotolos and had cost 1,300 sterling. It is the biggest ever bell founding by the Milan Barigozzi foundry St Helen is also the main religious feast in Birkirkara and the main attraction of the feast is a procession during which, a large wooden statue of St Helen (created by Maltese Salvu Psaila) is carried through the city. The procession leaves the basilica at 08:00 to return at 10:45 on the first Sunday following the 18th of August. The timing of the procession is unique as these events usually take place in the evening. Birkirkara has grown over the years and become an important commercial centre. Birkirkara is famous for its football club Birkirkara F.C and also for the floodings in the village after heavy rainfall. This problem occurs since Birkirkara is located in a valley, catching waters from from Naxxar, Balzan and Attard. Today most of Birkirkara is modern but the town still kept some of its traditional Maltese characteristics of narrow streets and alleys. The city's older part is separated from the newer part by a small garden. The larger houses in the town are often used as band clubs or offices for political parties.

St Helens Church: The church is a very fine example of baroque architecture on Malta and was built in 1727. The church is most famous for its large bell, installed around 1932 and the statue of St. Helen, which was completed in 1837 by the Maltese artist Salvu Psaila.



Ambassador John Aquilina, Deputy Jean Paul Gatt and Consul Lisa-Marie Azzopardi visit the new Malta Visa Application centre at VFS Global, Beijing and meet with Head of Operations, Lloyd Barry Dsouza, Operations Manager Ms Eden Yuan, and Malta Operations director, Ms Bella Miao. Malta - Open for Business!

## MALTA IN CHINA



## NEWS FROM CANADA



Photo: Fr. Mario with Dr. Ray Xerri, Consul-General for Malta in Canada.

## COMING BACK - Fr Mario Micallef

As some of you have seen during the week, I am slowly returning to being present in the Parish following my heart surgery. I can truly say that the greatest feeling I have in my heart at the moment is that of gratitude.

My heartfelt Thank You goes to:

- God, first and foremost, as all went well both during and after the operation;
- All the staff in our hospitals (both medical and otherwise). I have personally experienced their selfless dedication, especially during these

trying times of Covid-19;

- Fr Ivano, on whose shoulders (wide enough!) fell all responsibilities of the Parish, besides looking after my needs, and to Fr Jimmy who offered to help in our Maltese celebrations;
- Each one of you for your good wishes, messages, and prayerful support. Your prayers were truly felt and, I believe, answered.



## MALTESE-CANADIAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Archeological Excavations at the 19th Century Maltese-owed Shickluna's Ship Yard, in Port Colborne, St Catherines in Ontario. Louis Shickluna migrated to Canada in the 19th Century and settled in down town St Catherines with his family and operated a ship yard, became to be known as Shickluna Shipyard which employed 300 men in 1864. Well over a century later, archaeologist Kimberly Monk, adjunct Professor with the Department of History of Brock University manages a team of 10 students with many local volunteers have been

excavating the site for months with new discoveries everyday. There was great interest from the public in recent days when tours were held on the site. This excavation is not only important to the Maltese Canadian but to Canadian history so much so that it is supported by Brock, McMaster and Trent universities and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada along with list of private companies.



## “We had no water or electricity but it was heaven on earth

Report: Andrea Rossitto tvn.com.mt

There is a Maltese saying “Kliem ix-xiħ żomm fih” (always listen to what an elderly man says). Karmnu Sammut, who is nicknamed *iż-*

*Żebbuġi* is a clear example of this saying. Despite his age, Karmnu is still young at heart. The smile on his face steals your heart and so do his words.

One can often find Karmnu toiling away in the fields which belong to his family, just a stone's throw away from Wied tal-Ħżejjen in Bidnija. Over the last few days, Karmnu has rolled up his sleeves to give a helping hand in order to cut the grapes for pressing.

Among the vineyards weighed down by the grape harvest, Karmnu shared a number of thoughts with us about his life.



In comments to tvn.com.mt Karmnu said that when he was still very young, he did not have an easy life. He was born among the farm animals and often slept with them on the hay. He added that he was raised on a very bare farm, which had no water or electricity.

Despite the lack of comfort, Karmnu said that it was peace on earth, as everyone was happy, peaceful and content. These values, in his opinion, are very hard to find these days because of the fast pace of our lives, and despite the fact that we have everything we need. He said that sacrifice makes a person. mature and responsible, and in this way one can move forward in life.

### **This made me what I am today**

**Sharon Grillo Micallef**



I grew up in a village and I loved it. At home dinner time was at 8.00pm and bedtime was 9:00 or 10.00 pm if you were good.

Fast food was non-existent and having a bottle of coke from the shop was a real treat.

You took your school uniform off as soon as you got home and put on your 'home' clothes .

There was no taking or picking you up in the car, you walked or caught the bus ! You got home and did your homework. Afterwards we spent some time playing in the quiet streets with our neighbours and friends before we were called in for

dinner.

Our house phone had a cord attached ... so there were no such things as private conversations or mobile phones!

We didn't have Sky or Netflix. We had only a few channels to watch ..... Maltese and Italian, and I feel privileged to speak fluent Italian (almost).

We played hide & seek, Cowboys and Indians, police catching thieves, harba, beads, yo-yo, lastiku and we skipped rope. In summer we swam for long hours and got tanned with no lotions or creams.

Staying in the house was a PUNISHMENT and the only thing we knew about "boredom" was --- "You better find something to do before I find it for you!" We played music on a record player or tape recorder.

We went to the shop for bread and milk and a Lollipop or bubblegum was 1 cent.

We ate what mum made for dinner or we ate nothing at all and if we didn't eat our vegetables there was no desert. We watched cartoons and on Saturday mornings we ran around the neighborhood.

We weren't afraid of anything. We played till dark... the sunset was our alarm.

If someone had a fight, that's what it was and we were friends again a week later, if not SOONER.

We watched our MOUTHS around our elders because WE RESPECTED THEM!! ALL our aunts, uncles, grandpas, grandmas, AND our parents' best friends were all extensions of our PARENTS and you didn't want them telling your parents if you misbehaved or they would give you something to cry about.

We respected the Teachers, Police, Clergy, Ambulance workers, Doctors and Nurses.

We never answered back..... ever!!

Wooden spoons, flip flops and slippers were the cane of choice and we got detention at school for not doing homework, being late to class, or being naughty.

These were the good old days. So many kids today will never know how it feels to be a real kid I loved my childhood and all the friends & family I hung around with. Good Times



**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER**  
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Our Journal is reaching readers from all over the world.  
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**WE THANK ALL OUR READERS  
AND THE CONTRIBUTORS FOR  
THEIR SUPPORT AND  
APPRECIATION**

## Hundreds of fires in California, USA



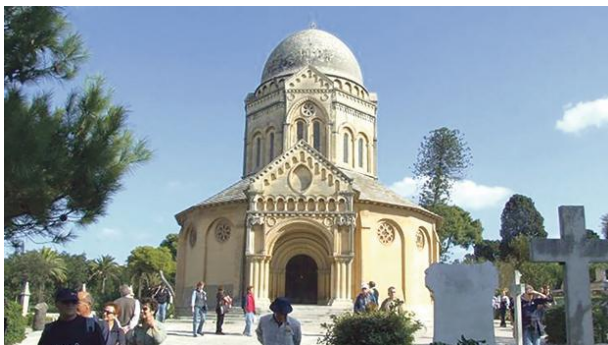
Tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes, while dozens of other homes were consumed in fires in California, on Wednesday, after lightning strikes ignited hundreds of rapidly spreading fires.

The authorities stated that California suffered nearly 11,000 lightning strikes within 72 hours in the worst storm of its kind in more than ten years, causing 367 fires, more than 20 of which were large fires. Forestry and Fire Protection Department spokesman Will Bowers said forced evacuation orders had been issued for thousands of people in an area that witnessed a series of nine wind-fueled fires, sparked by

lightning on Monday.

In central California, the administration said a helicopter crashed during a firefighting mission to dump water in Fresno County, about 258 km south of San Francisco, killing the pilot. To the north of that region, she added, wind-fueled fires over an area of more than 46,000 acres near Fairfield and Vacaville raged in the hills and mountains overnight, destroying at least 50 homes and buildings, and damaging 50 others.

Fred Aquilina wrote to us: They let us back to our acreage this afternoon and were able to view the devastation. Looks like a war zone. The 5 neighbors around us all lost their homes. Our home in the middle of the burned out properties survived. We lost our tractor and some equipment, but miraculously, the fire did not touch the house. Out of 30 homes in our area, 18 lost their homes. Sure glad we kept defensible space around our home, and that it is stucco with cement-tile roof. The heat broke one of the outside water lines and it flooded the area around the break, but the fire department shut off the line and stopped the leak. Two of 3 of our feral cats returned, The other one tends to go on long vacations, but eventually returns. One of the neighbors has a weather station and said the winds in our area reached 50 mph and the temperature reached 140 degrees. Oh, the wind was so strong it bent our 24 foot flag pole at its base. Thanks for your prayers. They worked.



## TA' BREXIA CEMETERY – PIETA

The Ta' Braxia cemetery in Pietà is an oasis of eternal peace for many people of different religions and boasts architecture which is as rich as its history. When it was built in the middle of the 19th century on the orders of the British Governor, it led to lots of protests and controversy because Catholic Malta at the time did not want a cemetery for people of other religions.

This cemetery is one of the most serene places in Malta despite the fact that it is built at the crossroads of one of the busiest roads in Pietà and Hamrun.

Designed and built during the time of Governor Sir William Reid to be a place of rest for all "denominations without distinction of creed" to meet the needs of the increasingly diverse number of non-Catholics needing interment in Malta, the cemetery created the unprecedented furore that required all the diplomacy the British administration could muster to avoid a head-on clash with Malta's conservative religious establishment.

In it are buried Russian emigrées fleeing the Russian Revolution, Greek Orthodox, Jews, Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and Calvinists. The cemetery's chapel is the only building built in Malta by the eminent 19th-century British architect John Loughborough Pearson.

The beautifully decorated tombstones indicate that this is the resting place for people of different religions which gives a religious and political context to Maltese society in the mid-19th century.



It was architect Emmanuele Luigi Galizia, who had also designed the Turkish and the Addolorata cemeteries, who was commissioned to create the blueprints for this cemetery. The mission he was given by Sir William Reid, was to build a cemetery where the bodies of British service officers who were not Catholic, could be buried.

Timothy Alden from the environmental group *Flimkien għall-Ambjent Aħjar* explained that the cemetery was built amidst much controversy, but now is considered a historical gem.

Timothy Alden said, "it was the first cemetery in Malta where anybody could be buried. It created a lot of controversy in Malta at the time because the Catholics were saying, Malta is a Catholic country, why are you putting a cemetery for Protestants... are you trying to impose your religion ... and they fought it out in the Catholic newspapers, but in the end, they built it anyway..."

During a talk organized by the FAA, researcher Janice Buhagiar and Prof Conrad Thake explained that the cemetery starting being built in 1855, and was finished two years later. It was then expanded in 1880. In the middle of the cemetery there is also a chapel dedicated to Lady Rachel Hamilton, which was built between 1893 and 1894.



### **'Came Back For You' is the latest single released by Dr LYNN in collaboration with ONE VOICE MALTA.**

Dr LYNN came back with a message of hope and solidarity. The lyrics of the song relate to a process which connects individuals to something higher. A sense of transcendence experience in spirituality. She has collaborated with lyricist Richard Rogers on this version of the song as she had originally composed and written *Came Back* herself. This connection has inspired DrLYNN to keep searching for answers and look ahead to be of better service in the Community.

Dr LYNN released 'Treading of Eggshells' earlier this year. Since then she has been observing how people react to difficult situations in life. Earlier in life she has been through many hardships herself and in her daily professional work as an advocate, she makes her utmost to provide support to the most vulnerable persons she meets.

By practising Music and the Arts DrLYNN has managed to express her feelings in the most serene and productive way. She encourages people, especially the vulnerable who are restricted to perform outdoor activities, to dedicate more time on projects which empower their mental health and their personal development. Through education DrLYNN has acquired the necessary skills to overcome circumstances which she describes as being complex and at times even painful.

'Nothing in life comes easy'. Dr LYNN found that inner strength is the key to overcome any obstacle.

Today Dr LYNN is an established advocate, specialised in Civil, Child Protection and International Law. Yet, her unique expression in the Arts is an intrinsic characteristic of [Dr LYNN](#). Her piano playing is distinctive. During this epidemic she has kept herself busy at the piano composing new musical material while in her profession she remains focused on giving a voice to the people.

Watch 'Came Back for You' music video here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ye9S6O0xY8&feature=youtu.be>

For more updates and information log on <https://www.facebook.com/DrLYNN.mt/>



#### **Bongu & Good Morning**

I would like to share with you my experience leading to the new single being release 'CAME BACK FOR YOU'

I keep learning so much from the younger generation and find that there is so much more to life than what others present to me at times.

People try to block you, hold you back, worry you and give you their perspective.

Then you have to understand there are those who come in good faith and others with the intent to harm you.

When I wrote 'Came back for you' I had in mind those who instil in me a sense of purpose; those who keep coming in good faith; those human beings and other creatures of God (for those who believe) who are vulnerable and others who lose their sense of direction; those who are caught up in a moment and think that the pain will last forever; those who suffer from mental and physical health and are not being given primary care or consideration; to all children whose parents or family members are suffering and need help; children who are entitled to rights as much as their family members do children whose best interests are not given primary consideration by the State. I CAME BACK FOR YOU

These situations are NOT exhaustive but they are my motivating force and what I stand for.

To be given the opportunity to add on to my life purpose is a blessing.

My family has been my greatest influencer and I owe you a come back for all the support and love you gave me unconditionally. I CAME BACK FOR YOU

The list of friends keeps growing but I shall never forget YOU for being there on my bad days and on whose shoulder I have cried my heart out on. I CAME BACK FOR YOU

YOU know who you are [#thevoiceofthepeople#maghkomghaxbhalkom](https://www.facebook.com/thevoiceofthepeople#maghkomghaxbhalkom)

Lynn Chircop Faure

## Marsovin releases first Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé



Marsovin has produced for the first time in Maltese history a Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé sparkling wine using the indigenous grape variety Ġellewża and selected chardonnay grapes

101 Brut Rose is a sparkling wine made by Marsovin

Marsovin has produced a special edition Méthode Traditionnelle Brut Rosé sparkling wine, the first in Maltese history. This special edition wine has been named, 101 Brut Rosé, representing the number of years since

the winery was first established. The wine was produced from a blend of Malta's indigenous grape variety Ġellewża and selected Chardonnay grapes.

"As a Maltese wine producer, we are proud of the result achieved, especially since it is a first for Maltese winemaking history. In fact, because we are so proud of the result we have decided to label the wine as a special edition wine. The name 101 represents the number of years of the family's winemaking history," Jeremy Cassar from Marsovin said.

101 Brut Rosé was made using the traditional sparkling rosé winemaking method used in other regions around Europe such as Champagne, Cava, Franciacorta and Trentino.

After the first fermentation of the grape juice a process known as the assemblage takes place, this is the careful blending of the different base wines to form a cuvée which gives the desired aromas and character of the wine before undergoing secondary fermentation and further ageing in the bottle.

## New British High Commissioner appointed

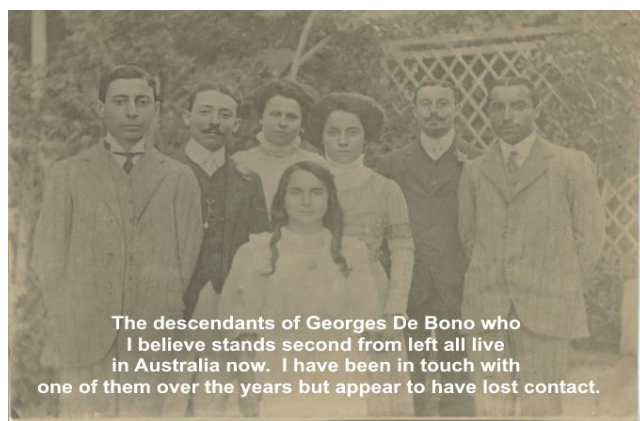


*Cathy Ward. Photo: British High Commission*

Cathy Ward has been appointed British High Commissioner to Malta, succeeding Stuart Gill, who will be retiring from the diplomatic service, the British High Commission said. Ms. Ward will take up her appointment in September. Katherine Georgina Ward is currently ambassador in Quito, Ecuador. She has held several posts in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office including in the Near East department, Middle East and North Africa

directorates. She was also deputy High Commissioner in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Ward, who has a daughter, joined the FCO in 1994.





*Young Catherine, Abel, Mary, George De Bono in Alexandria.*

## MALTESE OF EGYPT

Delighted to receive another of the wonderful e-Newsletters! One of the things I have been doing during the continued lockdown that we are experiencing in the US is to look more deeply into my family history and genealogy. This has included talking to cousins in the UK who, like my own immediate family, were sent to refugee camps after the Suez Canal crisis in Egypt in 1956.

It occurs to me that some refugees from Egypt may have ended up moving to Australia. I would very much like to get in touch with any such people. I am hoping to write about the history of the Maltese exodus from Egypt in 1956, including people's experiences in the refugee camps.

I am enclosing some photos that you might find interesting. One of them is of my maternal grand-father Abel De Bono and three of his seven siblings. Their own father, Vincenzo De Bono, was the owner of the major department store in Alexandria called La Cordonnerie Francaise.



The photo on the left shows the change in fortunes that can happen within a generation, and features my own immediate Scerri family just after we were expelled from Egypt and sent to a refugee camp in the south of England.

My mother is the woman in the light colored overcoat in the center of the image and holding the pram containing my brother who was just a few months old. I am the small 3 year old boy standing immediately to her left. My father Edward Scerri stands between the two uniformed

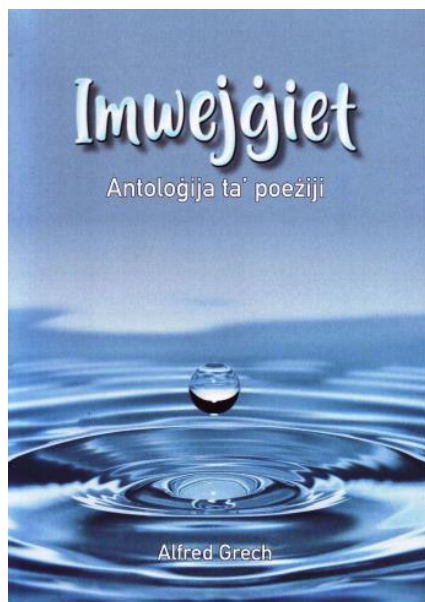
English women carrying babies.

Some Maltese had been present in Egypt as early as the era of [Napoleon](#) and his [conquest of Egypt](#). The proximity between the two countries and the similarity between the [Maltese](#) and [Arabic](#) languages have led many Maltese to settle in Egypt in the past, mainly in [Alexandria](#). Like the [Italians who settled in Egypt](#), the Egyptian-born Maltese constituted a portion of [Egypt's Roman Catholic community](#). By 1939, up to 20,000 Maltese were living in Egypt. Practically all of these were French-speaking, and those with a French parent had French as their mother tongue. In many middle-class families (especially in Alexandria and Cairo) a language shift had occurred, with Italian used as the home language alongside French; a large minority of Egyptian Maltese (for example those of the Suez Canal Zone) still retained Maltese as their mother tongue. This number was greatly reduced by emigration years after, and almost completely wiped out by expulsions in 1956 due to the Maltese being British nationals. Most of the

Egyptian Franco-Maltese settled in Australia or Britain, where they remained culturally distinct from immigrants from Malta. Those with French citizenship were repatriated to France (most often to [Marseille](#)). Post-war Malta in general did not accept refugees from Egypt.

If you have more information contact: Eric Scerri on [scerri@chem.ucla.edu](mailto:scerri@chem.ucla.edu)

## **Imwejgiet' – damma ta' poezija tal-Avukat Alfred Grech**



**Kav Joe M Attard   Rabat – Għawdex   Awwissu 2020**

'Imwejgiet' - din hija gabra ta' poeziji li ħarġu mill-pinna tal-Poeta Għawdex minn Ta' Kercem, l-avukat Alfred Grech. Forsi xi wħud jistaqsu għaliex semmiha hekk l-avukat din l-aħħar pubblikazzjoni tiegħu. Mhix kelma li tismagħha ta' spiss fil-malti miktub u mitkellem u forsi hawn ukoll min ma jafx xi tisser sewwa. Fil-Miklem malti, l-istudjuż Erin Serracino Ingloj jgħidilna li *imwejgiet* hija d-diminuttiv ta' 'mewġa'. Biex ngħinkom nagħtikom żewġ eżempji oħra ta' Diminuttiv f'isla: dar – dwejra; ġibna – gbejna! Din ma hix l-ewwel gabra ta' poeziji li ppubblika l-awtur. L-ewwel gabra ta' poeziji tiegħu kien jisimha 'Mix-xefaq u lil hinn' li huwa stampa fis-sena 2012. Sentejn wara huwa reġa tana t-tieni antologija tiegħu 'Petali f'wiċċ l-Ilma' u sentejn wara reġa kien magħna bil-pubblikazzjoni 'Erbatax-il Vers', antologija ta' poeziji endekasillabiċi ta' erbatax-il vers kull waħda. Għal min ma jafx, l-avukat Grech huwa awtur ta' diversi artikli f'rivisti loali kemm ta' natura legali u kemm ta' natura oħrajn li jittrattaw suġġetti varji. Il-Letteratura, b'mod speċjali, il-poezija, kienu dejjem għal qalbu u

kkontribwixxa f'dan il-qasan f'ħafna pubblikazzjonijiet. Insibuh membru tal-Għaqda Poeti Maltin kif ukoll membru tal-Għaqda tal-Malti Universita. Iggradwa bħala Avukat fis-sena 1975 u fl-1987 kiseb il-Masters Degree fil-European and Comparative Law.

Kien il-poeta Dun Gorg Mercieca, Poeta Għawdex li llum ħalliena, li ħajjar u wassal lill-poeta biex jibda jperreċ xogħlijietu għad-dawl tal-istampa u allura bid-dritt, din l-aħħar pubblikazzjoni tal-Avukat hija ddedikata lil dan is-sacerdot tant twajieb. Żewġ studjużi tal-Malti għogħbohom jiktbulu f'dan il-ktieb żewġ apprezzamenti tassew tajbin. Dawn huma s-sinjuri Tarcisio Żarb u Andrew Sciberras. Huma jidhlu fil-fond fil-kitba tal-poeta u trid taqrahom għal iktar minn darba biex tifhem il-kritika letterarja tagħhom. Naħseb l-istess trid tagħmel meta tiġi biex taqra l-Poezija tal-Avukat Alfred Grech. Fil-kumment li ħalliel fil-kopja li baġhatli, kitbli 'lil ħabib tiegħi Joe M Attard li jiena tant nammira fil-poezija tiegħu bil-vers tat-tmienja'. Mhux hekk fil-każ ta' dan il-poeta li bħala metru juża l-aktar l-*endekasillabu*, imma li b'maturita jirnexxilu jibbsu libsa ġdida għax l-idjoma hi moderna, kif itenni l-kritiku Andrew Sciberras, li jissokta jikteb li hawn jagħtih gwarniċ u struttura adegwata li fiha jqiegħed l-espressjonijiet u l-ħsebijiet tiegħu, u dawn l-istrutturi sintattiċi jsawruh f'poeta modern, għax qed jirrifletti epoka partikulari, u fuq kollox iż-żmien hu biss qagħda ċerebrali. Imma kollox fuq kollox, bħal Rużar Briffa, il-lirika tibqa' l-baži tal-poezija tiegħu.

Meta jittellem dwar is-saffika tal-Avukat Alfred Grech, il-Professor Oliver Friggieri jgħid li 'għal dan il-għan huwa jissimplifika kollox kemm f'termini ta' lingwaġġ letterali u lingwaġġ figurattiv, u ta' kull figura tat-taħdit li lkoll jaffernaw mill-bidu sat-tmiem il-karattru metaforiku tal-vjaġġ tal-poeta, li jikteb mhux biss biex jesprimi ruħu imma wkoll biex, minnufih u bla ebda medjazzjoni, jiftiehem.

U biex insaħħaħ dak li qed ngħid, ħa nikkwotalkom strofa mill-poezija tiegħu Għammar:

*'Għax minn hawn fuq xort'oħra jidher kollox*

*U minn hawn fuq id-dawl tax-xemx nitmiegħek,*

*Hawnhekk għad niġi noqgħod, ngħix għal dejjem,*

*Fit-trasfigurazzjoni nkun qrib tiegħek'.*

Andrew Sciberras itemm il-kumment tiegħu billi jgħid li 'din il-gabra tingħaqad minnha nnifisha ma-xogħlijiet l-oħra u tixhed li hemm unita' kemm tematika u kemm formali, b'mod li l-poezija varji jintisġu flimkien bħala



element ta' opra waħda. Din itenni l-kritiku, hi kwalita meħtieġa ħafna biex fl-aħħar mill-aħħar turi li l-versi ta' Alfred Grech huma l-prodott ta' maturita' fil-ħsieb (bħal memorji u immaġjazzjoni) daqskemm huma r-riżultat ta' maturita' fit-tħaddim tal-kelma.'

Lil Tarcisju Żarb ukoll trid taqrah iktar minn darba biex tifhem il-messaġġ li jkollu għall-qarrej bejn il-linji. Fl-istudju li huwa jagħmel għal dan il-ktieb huwa jasal għall-konklużjoni li l-Poeta Alfred Grech huwa l-bniedem li għalih il-Poeżija saret mod ta' għajxien; mod kif isostni lilu nnifsu psikoloġikament daqskemm spiritwalment u ħaj fid-dinja ta' madwaru, daqskemm u iktar fid-dinja ta' ġo fih. Għaldaqstant, darba waħda l-poeta jidhol f'din id-dinja ta' mistifikazzjoni, b'waqtiet rari fejn jibqa' huwa wkoll imwaħħal mad-dehriet ta' madwar, il-poeta jsib il-kenn traslucienti fin-narrattivi, ġejjin gelgul minn kull naħa tan-narrattiva-mega-mikro tiegħu. Il-poeta għal daqstant jikteb, u hekk kif jikteb, huwa jħares lejn dak li jkun kiteb u jara lilu nnifsu ġdid – imġedded – l-Alfred Grech li jixtieq li jirrisolvi l-perkorsi tiegħu, u jara fihom xi tip ta' sotterran, xi tip ta' storja oħra għaddejja, xi tip ta' qiegħ li huwa forsi ma jistax jifhem. Imma jekk xejn, il-poeżija tagħti hjiel li iva, fil-ħajja hemm xi tip ta' realizzazzjoni, anke jekk il-bniedem mhux dejjem ikun f'qagħda li jagħraf dan fil-ħajja ta' kuljum.

Il-poeżija b'dan il-mod, ikompli jirraġuna Tarcisio Żarb, li jien niftakru Spettur tal-Malti fl-iskejjel Sekondarji tal-Gvern, għal Grech issir dik ir-realta' li hija iktar reali mill-ħajja ta' kuljum, għaliex hija l-istess perċettività tiegħu – hija l-istess mod kif huwa jibni r-realta' li huwa jibniha bil-lingwa, ir-rima, ir-ritmu, u l-istrofi, li għalkemm waqtiet dawn ikunu miruta minn ġenerazzjonijiet ta' poeti oħra, xorta jkun hemm fihom sens qawwi ta' idjosinkrasija.

U wara dak l-irraġunar mhux ħafif ta' Żarb, se nagħlaq din il-kitba dwar l-aħħar ktieb tal-poeżiji li tana l-Avukat Alfred Grech b'din is-silta li ġejja mill-poeżija tiegħu *Jien negħreq ġol-għadira tas-skiel tiegħek*:

*Jien negħreq ġol-għadira tas-skiel tiegħek  
Fil-baħar ta' bla xtut indoqq t-tokki,  
U mnalla kien il-ħolm biex nista' nħobbok  
U lilek nara aħjar mingħajr irtokki.*

*Jien lilek ma narax xhin tkun fil-mera,  
U jista' jkun tqil wisq it-toqol tiegħek,  
U jista' mhu tqil xejn għax mhux ħlief għafsa  
Li tgħaddi mal-oħrajn fil-mixi tiegħe*

## **“We had no water or electricity but it was heaven on earth**

Andrea Rossitto tvn.com.mt

There is a Maltese saying “Kliem ix-xiħ żomm fih” (always listen to what an elderly man says). Karmnu Sammut, who is nicknamed *iż-Żebbuġi* is a clear example of this saying. Despite his age, Karmnu is still young at heart. The smile on his face steals your heart and so do his words. One can often find Karmnu toiling away in the fields which belong to his family, just a stone's throw away from Wied tal-Ħżejjen in Bidnija. Over the last few days, Karmnu has rolled up his sleeves to give a helping hand in order to cut the grapes for pressing. Among the vineyards weighed down by the grape harvest, Karmnu shared a number of thoughts with us about his life. In comments to tvn.com.mt Karmnu said that when he was still very young, he did not have an easy life. He was born among the farm animals and often slept with them on the hay. He added that he was raised on a very bare farm, which had no water or electricity. Despite the lack of comfort, Karmnu said that it was peace on earth, as everyone was happy, peaceful and content. These values, in his opinion, are very hard to find these days because of the fast pace of our lives, and despite the fact that we have everything we need. He said that sacrifice makes a person mature and responsible, and in this way one can move forward in life.



## CULTURE - GHALLIES TOWER – NAXXAR

**Ghallis Tower** ([Maltese](#): *Torri tal-Għallis*), originally known as *Torre delle Saline*, is a small [watchtower](#) in [Salina](#), limits of [Naxxar](#), [Malta](#). It was completed in 1658 as the second of the [De Redin towers](#). Today, the tower is in good condition.

**History** Ghallis Tower was built in 1658 on the eastern shore of Ghallis Point ([Maltese](#): *Ras l-Għallis*), commanding the entrance to Salina Bay along with [Qawra Tower](#), one of the [Lascaris towers](#). The tower was built on or near the site of a medieval watch post.<sup>[2]</sup> It follows the standard design of the [De Redin towers](#), having a square plan with two floors and a turret on the roof. The external wall is made of upper coralline limestone which is weather resistant while the inner wall is made of the softer globogerina limestone. It originally had a garrison consisting of a [bombardier](#) and three gunners, who manned a three-pounder iron cannon. During the British period, Ghallis Tower was modified by opening a doorway at ground level and the insertion of roof slabs.

On 9 March 1955, the corpse of Toninu Aquilina, a 35-year-old employee of the Malta Millers Association, was found inside the tower's well. Aquilina had gone missing in [Valletta](#) on 24 February while carrying a large sum of cash and cheques from his workplace to a bank, and the 31-year-old cashier George Terreni was later convicted of his murder.

**Present day** By the 1990s, Ghallis Tower was in a state of disrepair, with parts of its exterior being covered with plaster and cement, and many weeds growing around it. The interior was also damaged due to soot from the many fires lit inside the tower.

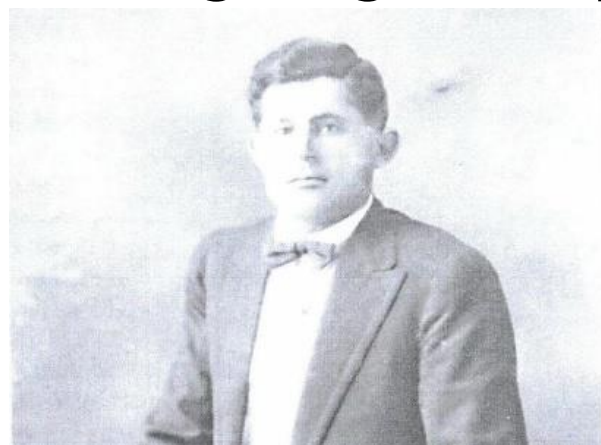
[Din l-Art Helwa](#) restored the tower between 1995 and 1996, and many stonework had to be replaced. Today, it is still under the control of Din l-Art Helwa and is in good condition. It is open to the public by appointment.<sup>[7]</sup>



In 2015, an LED lighting system was installed at Ghallis Tower. Since the tower is off Malta's electricity grid, the energy was provided by [solar panels](#) installed on the tower's roof.

### History of Maltese Emigration

## Gange saga: Jumping ship over politics



*Joe Sherry in 1928*

JOE Sherry and Tony Axiak swam in shark infested waters to reach Australian soil - they swam towards the lights of Sydney while shots were fired over their heads. Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak made that tough journey to eventually settle in Mackay. Mr Sherry, also known as Giuseppe Xerri, was 25 years old and Mr Axiak was 21 when they left Malta.

They were among 200 Maltese to make the trip to Australia in September 1916. But the French mail steamer 'Gange' was prohibited from docking and was anchored off Fremantle on October 21, 1916.

The ship had been detained because of the referendum to impose conscription in Australia. Prime Minister, at the time,

Bill Hughes feared the immigrants would "turn the tide" against the conscription vote.

Hughes implemented the Immigration Act's stipulation that "persons seeking to disembark at Australian port could be classified as prohibited immigrants if they failed a dictation test in any European language." The passengers were given the test in Dutch - they all failed.

The ship was turned around and headed to New Caledonia where the passengers spent 10 weeks before being allowed to return to Australia - their original treatment was deemed as discrimination.



Before the ship had departed for New Caledonia, Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak with 42 other men jumped ship under the cover of darkness - 15 were captured quickly including Mr Sherry, more were later found but Mr Axiak made it land with the help of wharf workers.



Mr Sherry's granddaughter Therese Townley said the family was proud of Mr Sherry and all he went through to set up life in Australia.

"They came from a place that was established to Mackay which was just starting off," Mrs Townley said.

"It was pretty basic and they left their homeland with nothing - they had to start all over again. "They worked hard in harsh conditions to set us all up."

Mr Sherry eventually purchased a cane farm which still remains in the family.

**SHERRY FAMILY:** Children of Joe Sherry, back from left, Frances Camilleri, Lawrence Sherry, Joe Sherry and Mary Borg. Absent Tony sherry (dec)

Mrs Townley said Mr Sherry and Mr Axiak were reunited in Mackay a couple of years later and both worked in it sugar industry and become life-long friends.

"My grandfather came to Mackay because he knew there were Maltese people here," she explained.

Mr Axiak made his way to Mackay by working on the railway and arrived in 1918. He also established himself in cane farming after he took on a crop partnership with Gaetano Zammit in Farleigh. The Axiak still own cane farms the Mackay area.



**AXIAK FAMILY:** The children of Tony Axiak, back from left, Charlie Axiak, Margaret Bezzina and Fred Axiak, front, Tony Aniak, Mary Schembri and Joe Axiak contributed

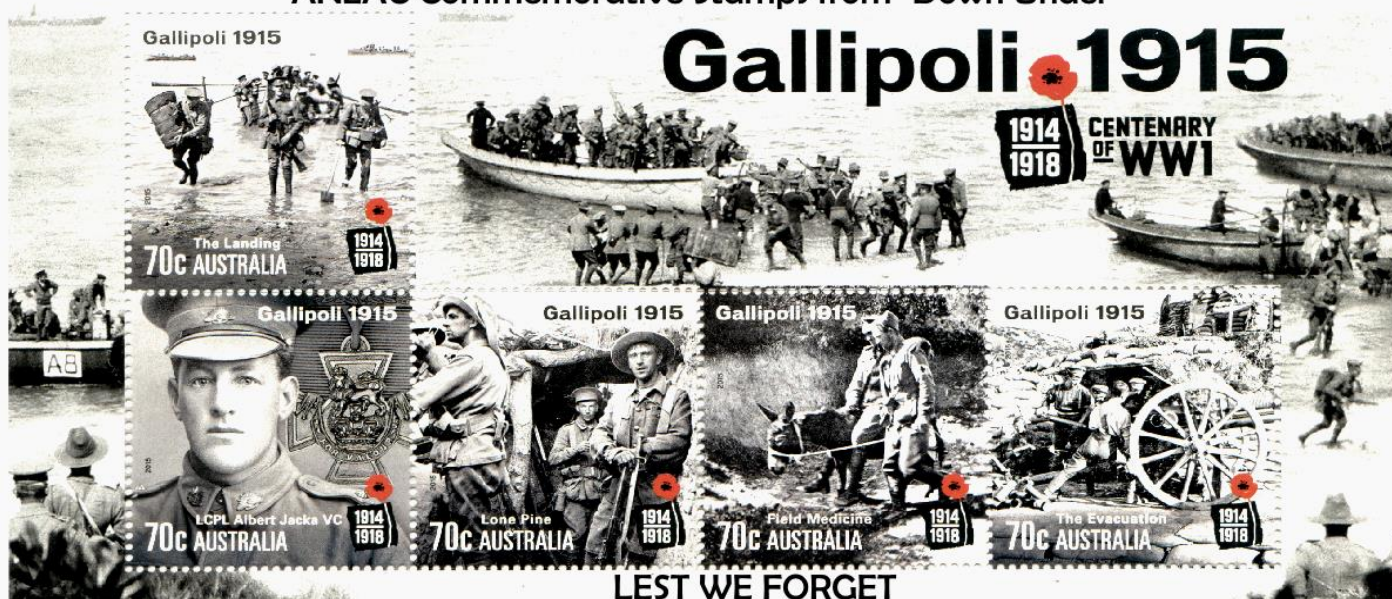
The men's extraordinary journey to Australia was commemorated with a limited edition post card printed Canberra & Gozo Philatelic Societies - Joe Sherry's son Joe has number 92 of 100.

## Keeping Maltese Communities Connected

ANZAC Commemorative Stamps from "Down Under"

# Gallipoli 1915

1914  
1918  
CENTENARY  
OF WWI







## Welcome Back!

### MALTESE CENTER – NEW YORK

### 27-20 Hoyt Avenue South, Astoria, NY, USA

*First we would like to thank all the volunteers in our Maltese community during these very challenging times. The Maltese Center cannot exist without our volunteers who help in any way they can to keep the Maltese Center operational. Thank you to those who donated their time over the past several months during the shut down to make sure all was well with the Maltese Center. Thank you to those who donated their skills and time to much needed refurbishments to the Maltese Center. Thank you to those who donated supplies and labor to complete the tasks. Thank you to those who donated funds. Thank you to those who became new*

*members. Thank you to those who continue their membership. Thank you to those who work behind the scenes and keep the wheel turning so we may continue to have a place of our own - our beloved Maltese Center. Because of this dedication we were able to open safely and stay open. Although at limited capacity and outdoor only, and new protocols, WE ARE OPEN!*



## The elegance of a bygone era

### An ghonnella with matching suit donated to Heritage Malta

Although the *ghonnella* is associated with a bygone era, its elegant and graceful appearance is still strongly captivating. A recent donation to Heritage Malta from a Gozitan family, consisting of a traditional *ghonnella*, with a matching black bodice and skirt, and a white cotton underskirt, provides a delightful insight into the local fashion of the early 20th century. "It is unusual to receive garment donations because people tend to throw their used clothes away, thinking that they have no value," Heritage Malta's senior curator in Gozo, Nicoline Sagona, revealed.

"Yet actually, garments are representative of a lifestyle at a particular point in time, and so, they have cultural, social and historical values." Although there may be some shared similarities with other cultures, the structure of the *ghonnella* is unique to the Maltese islands.

Furthermore, this particular complete outfit has a story behind it, and this enriches the donation, both with a narrative and with a sentimental value. "This refined set of clothes belonged to Francesca Zammit née Ciantar (25.11.1886 – 1.11.1973) of Xewkija, Gozo.

The *ghonnella*, together with the matching suit, were sewn for the special occasion of the ordination of Francesca's brother, Dun Pawl Ciantar (25.5.1879 - 26.11.1954), who was ordained priest on 19th December 1903," explained Sagona.

The *ghonnella* was so fashionable at the time that there were specialised seamstresses to sew these garments. It is not yet known who has sewn this set but possibly, it was made by a renowned seamstress in Victoria.

"This donation had another extraordinary factor about it since Nicolina Debrincat née Zammit (19.06.1922 – 20.02.2018), who was Francesca's daughter, had kept these clothes in memory of her mother, and later, she expressed her wish to donate them to the museum in Gozo in a Skrittura Privata."

*The structure of the ghonnella is unique to the Maltese islands*



Eventually, the donation to Heritage Malta was made by Carmelina Camilleri née Debrincat on behalf of her brothers and sisters Mary Azzopardi née Debrincat, Joseph Debrincat, John Debrincat, Paul Debrincat and Antonia Portelli née Debrincat, Nicolina's sons and daughters, in fulfilment of their mother's wish.

"One needs to remember that clothes are not designed to be museum pieces, Heritage Malta's principal textile conservator, Claire Bonavia, explained.

"They are made to be worn and then stored away for the next occasion. Possibly, they are also inherited from generation to generation," "Having said this, we do find people who take good care of their clothes, and so, we do manage to receive some well-preserved items. This complete *għonnella* set was stored in a very suitable climate, and therefore, it was still in a pretty good state of preservation."

On receipt of this donation, Bonavia and her colleague Leyre Quevedo, who is a textile conservator with



Heritage Malta, set out to document the condition of these clothes.

*Francesca Zammit née Ciantar had the għonnella sewn for the ordination of her brother Dun Pawl Ciantar (right). PhotoS: Fr Geoffrey George Attard*

"We start by carrying out photographic documentation of the textile items. Then, we move on to clean them. While we are cleaning the textiles, we observe and document further information, such as the type of fabric and fibres used, the construction style, the type of sewing, and the accessories which were added to decorate the cloth.

"We also document the state of the textile items, such as whether there are any stains, rips or holes. These observations will help us to identify what type of interventions are required to restore and conserve each item.

"This particular set was accompanied by details of who had worn it, on which date, and for what occasion, and so we can place it in a context. The very occasion reveals that the cloth that was used for these clothes was certainly of good quality. Costumes are tools to understand people, conditions and circumstances of the past. We know that in those days, clothes represented a person's status or the level of importance of the occasion being attended to. Even if someone couldn't afford to sew a new outfit, they would have found a way to get it or borrow it in order to look appropriately dressed for the occasion."

The donated *għonnella* and its matching outfit, together with its interesting narrative, now form part of the collective memory of the national collection. They will eventually be preserved in the study collection of the Gozo Museum in Victoria. Anyone who would like to donate such items to Heritage Malta is requested to write to [info@heritagemalta.com](mailto:info@heritagemalta.com) This article was published In the Times of Malta – August 20





