



Maltese eNewsletter

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

Editor: Frank L Scicluna



JOANNE
CAMILLERI

BELLY
DANCING
CLASSES

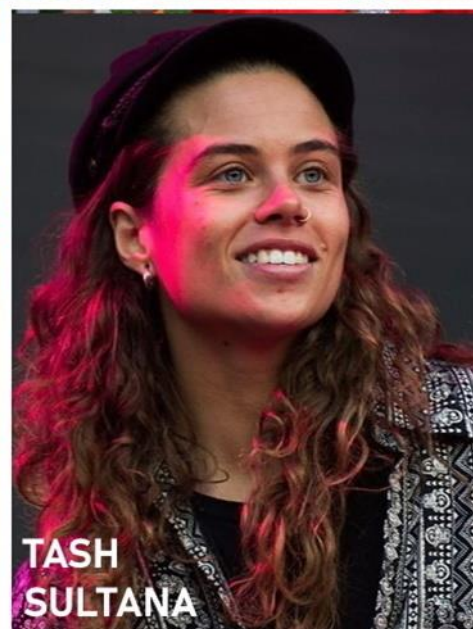
ONLINE



**CHRISTMAS
IN MALTA
2020**



President
George Vella and
Cardinal
Mario Grech



TASH
SULTANA

CHRISTMAS AND NYE IN THE CITY - MALTA



Christmas is a highly celebrated festivity in Malta and Gozo, both for its religious significance as well as in its more social aspect. The season is celebrated to its fullest on the Maltese Islands, with the active participation of many; Nativity scenes, displays of cribs, carol services and other events are organised in each locality.

For a very special, spiritual evening, join the congregation at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta for candlelit carol singing. Other Baroque parish churches across the Islands are just as awe-inspiring during advent. Their interiors are decked out in papal crimson and altars are adorned with flowers. All churches

have a calendar of events, ranging from the procession of Mary and Joseph, to streets with groups of children carol singing.

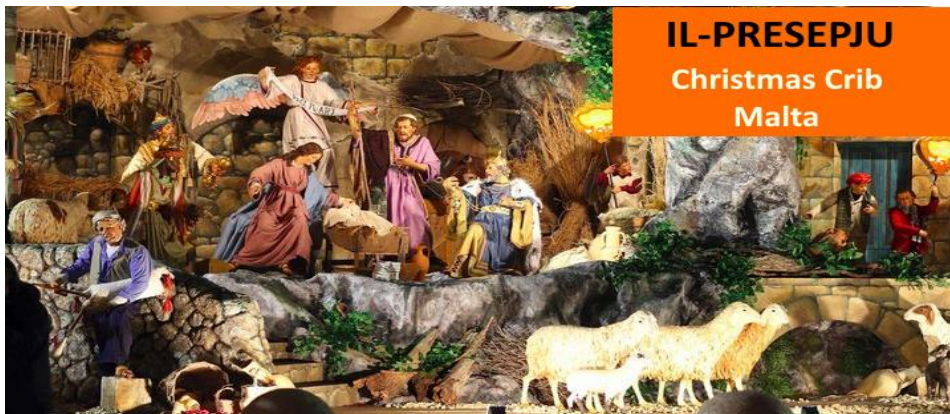
Cribs are positively everywhere, from private houses to small chapels. Visiting cribs is a popular activity at Christmastime and many locals spend time going round touring the various 'presepu' displays. Some are very artistic and elaborate, with figures moving around mechanically and a degree of detail that comes from hours of meticulous work by dedicated craftsmen.

A Christmas highlight, which is popular for children and adults alike, is the annual pantomime held at the Manoel Theatre and other venues. It's a happy mix of good slapstick humour for children and satire for adults. Restaurants, hotels, bars and clubs all have their own entertainment, making for an abundant choice of what to do and see.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2021

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation, the Valletta National New Year's Eve 2021 Variety Show, which will be broadcasted on TVM and other major local television stations, will this year replace the event that is usually held in Valletta ushering in the New Year. Different local popular hosts, stand-up comedians, The Palace String Orchestra featuring 12 musicians and four popular local singers including Amber, Jasmine, Aidan and Kevin Paul will entertain audiences throughout the three-hour show. Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Ember Trio, who will be performing in different iconic Valletta landmarks including inside St John's Co-Cathedral, are a highlight of the evening. Other well-wishers include the famous UK stand-up comedian Michael McIntyre. The show will take place from 10pm to 1am. A special fireworks display will take off from the iconic Grand Harbour and its surroundings at midnight. This Variety show is not open to the public and will be broadcasted live from Fort St Elmo on television.

The *New Year's Eve Show* is organised by G7 events and is supported by a Partnership Agreement for Large-Scale Events and initiatives with the Valletta Cultural Agency within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. Visit the Valletta Cultural Agency's [Website](#) or [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Instagram](#) for the latest updates on our upcoming events



**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT
SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
EDITION**

Cardinal Mario Grech visits President of Malta, Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, Speaker



Cardinal Grech with President George Vella



Cardinal Grech with Prime Minister Robert Abela



Cardinal Grech with Opposition Leader Bernard Grech



Cardinal Grech with Speaker Anglu Farrugia

Cardinal Mario Grech paid a courtesy call on George Vella, President of Malta, at San Anton Palace.

Observing how much the appointment of Cardinal Grech in the Consistory held on Saturday, 28th of November, at the Vatican was received with respect, joy, and love by the people of Malta and Gozo, the President expressed his certainty that such a prestigious position in the hierarchy of the Church will continue to highlight the value of humility in Cardinal Grech.

He added that, over the years, the Maltese nation has witnessed not only the humility, but also the compassion, intelligence, and determination that have always stood out in every function held by Cardinal Grech.

During the visit, the President of Malta was accompanied by Mrs Vella. Cardinal Grech later also met the Prime Minister Robert Abela, the Speaker of the House Anglu Farrugia and the Opposition Leader Bernard Grech.

Cardinal Grech is the first Cardinal from Gozo



Cardinal Mario Grech

LILL-EWWEL KARDINAL GHAWDXI

Niftakrek fuq bank l-iskola
Student bieżel u ħawtiel
U minn kif kont iġġib ruġek
Mill-ewwel int tajtna ħjiel.

Dmirijietek int kont taqdi
Sa ma bdejt titfarfar sewwa
Tbissima tilgħab fuq fommok
Ma kontx taf x'inhuma għedewwa!

Spicċajt dħalt is-Seminarju
Biex tistudja għal saċerdot
Fuq il-passi tal-Imgħallem
Ħajtek fassalt b'dan il-mod.

Wara ħallejt ix-xtut tagħna
U spicċajt fil-Belt Eterna
Sabiex tkompli hemm titħarreg
Tiftaħ moħħok, tiddixxerna!

Lura f'Għawdex ġewwa l-Kurja
Ħdimt, ħabrikt dlonk bla waqfien
Kappillan f'raħal tfulitek
Magħżul ġejt wara ftit żmien.

Iżda hawnhekk ma domtx wisq tmexxi
Triq oħra kien hemm għalik –
Isqof t'Għawdex Ruma qalet
Il-Baklu f'idej tagħtik!

U ħmistax-il sena tgerbu
Tmexxi lil dil-merħla Għawdxija;
Lilha twissi, twiddeb, teħles
Minn kull għawg illi jherriha.

Sakemm feġġet il-ġurnata
Li mill-ġdid Ruma kellmitek –
Segretarju minn tas-Sinodu
Għal darb'oħra din sejħitlek!

Kont diġà bdejt itmidd għonqok
F'din il-kariga prestiġġjuża
Iżda l-Papa milli jidher
Għalik kellu spazji usa'

U mit-tieqa ta' kamartu
Ħabbrilna l'int Kardinal –
Lejn l-aħħar minn ta' Novembru
Fost il-ferħ tal-kbar u ż-żgħar.

Eminenza nifirħulek
Kemm ninsabu ferħanin
L-ewwel fost ulied dan Għawdex
Li għamiltna hekk kburin.

Flimkien aħna ser nitolbu
Lil Ommna minn tas-Sikors
U lill-Papa kbir Gregorju
Lil ħajtek jimlew bil-għors

Sabiex mal-Qdusija Tiegħu
Tistinka għall-Knisja tagħna
Biex din tikber u tinfirex
U bil-grazzja dlonk tistagħna.

Kav Joe M Attard
01 – X1 – 2020



The editor and the readers of the Maltese Journal and
all Maltese Living Abroad convey
their congratulations to Cardinal Mario Grech





Lina Brockdorff awarded Ġieħ L-Akkademja tal-Malti Gold Medal

The writer Lina Brockdorff has won the Gold Medal by the Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti that annually awards recognition to individuals who through their writing embellish Maltese Literature and spread greater awareness of the Maltese Language.

The annual ceremony was held at Sant'Anton Palace under the patronage of President and Ms George Vella. The President emphasised his commitment in favour of the Maltese Language. He said that every time this is neglected gold medal at ġieħb continues to deteriorate from an excellence that makes us Maltese – our language.

He congratulated this year's Gold Medal winner, the authoress Lina Brockdorff and highly praised her for her lifetime's commitment to the Maltese Language, not only through her writing but also through her broadcasting work as well as her Presidency of the Għaqda Letterarja Maltija.

President Vella also described her as a wonderful example of being elderly and active through her three latest publications that continue the long list of works from her pen. Because of the pandemic situation the medal was received on her behalf by her nephew, Chris Mercieca.



Lina Brockdorff was born in Senglea in 1930 and has been writing prose and poetry and adapting works for

broadcasting for the past 60 years.

Among other works, Brockdorff wrote and produced a large number of programmes for Rediffusion between the 50s and 60s, among which "Hlieqa Bejnietna," "Quddiem il-Mera," "Nofs Siegħa Flimkien" and "Kwarta Flimkien", "Magic in the Kitchen" as well as short humorous plays.

Brockdorff was the first author who started adapting for radio dramatised scenes from "Wenzu u Rożi" from the book by Dr George Zammit. She also had a series of programmes entitled "Inwiegħbu lis-semmiegħa."

The author wrote several radio plays, including "Il-Fqajjar t'Assisi", a four-episode play broadcast on both RTK (1990) and PBS (1999). Some of her works were also read on radio both in Malta and in Australia.

Lina Brockdorff wrote and produced the literary programme for the Għaqda Letterarja Maltija, entitled "Mill-Ġnejna Maltija".

Brockdorff was President for eight years of the same Għaqda Letterarja Maltija, and is also a member of the Akkademja tal-Malti and the Għaqda Poeti Maltin. Lina Brockdorff was a Council Member of the Akkademja tal-Malti 2004 – 2005.

Lina Brockdorff penned over 340 short stories, many of which were broadcast on radio both in Malta and Australia, and several were also published in the media.

Printed works include *Sireni u Serenati* (2004), an autobiography of the author's youth during the war years, which was awarded the first prize by the National Book Council. This work was released in an English version last year as 'Serenades among the Sirens', and translated by Alfred Palma.

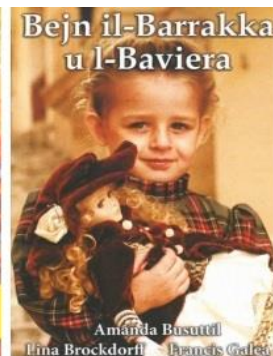
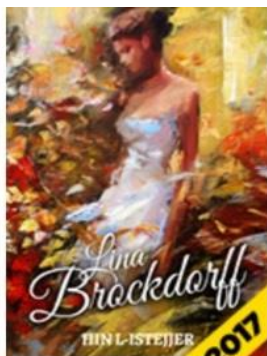
Five anthologies of stories include *Il-Bieb Numru 11 u stejjer oħra* (2007), *Bellus u Bizzilla* (2008), *Intermezzi* (2012), *Hin l-Istejjer* (2016) and *Minn Żmien l-Għerien* (2018) and *Qabel tbaxxi d-dawl* (2019).

Lina Brockdorff also published twelve novels: *Kien Kwinta l-Qamar* (1974, 2008), *La Jerga' Jasal Diċembru* (2010), *Kastell għal Clara* (2012), *Meta Jhammar il-Pepri* (2013), *Katrina* (2015), *Mal-*

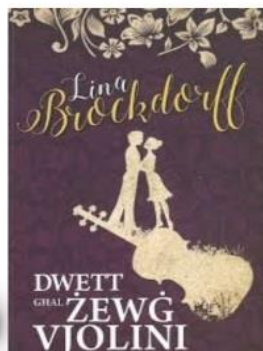
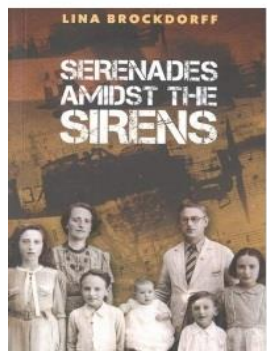
Fwieha tal-Ward (2015), Luciano (2016), 'Il Barra mill-Isqaq (2017), Dwett għal Żewġ Vjolini (2017), Taħt is-Swar tal-Imdina (2017), Meta traxxax ix-Xita (2018), Ladarba Dar ir-Riħ (2018), Luciano, with an English translation by Rose Marie Caruana (2019).

Lina Brockdorff honoured for contribution to Maltese literature

Gold medal at Ġieħ l-Akkademja tal-Malti for novelist and playwright



Lina Brockdorff started studying late in life and got her Masters degree when she was already over 70. The bubbly woman has a mantra that keeps her going: to make use of every minute of her day. "Time is the stuff that life is made of, no? I don't like to waste time," she says, insisting on spending a large chunk of it with her family and friends.



Some of the many books written by Lina Brockdorff

Ms Brockdorff, a mother of four and grandmother of seven, wants people to understand that it really is never too late to start studying. "Some say: What's the point in studying at this age? There's always a point. It gives you a scope in life. If you take up some studies you meet people; it opens up a window into the world... Learn computer and you'll never feel lonely," she said. Ms Brockdorff, a

published author of Maltese novels and short stories, traces her passion for learning back to her childhood.

"I was a war child. I was nine when war broke out and my studies were interrupted," she recalled in a nostalgic tone. When the war was over, her father wanted her to continue studying and she went back to school. "There were no textbooks. We had one copy of a book for each subject and had to share it among all the class. I remember mummy and daddy madly copying books and passages from them so that I could sit for my O levels," she said. As a teenager, she started writing short stories and reading them out on Rediffusion (a cable radio network).

She wished to study medicine but her family did not have the money to send her to the University. So her mother enrolled her into a teacher's training course without telling her. "I was furious, I wanted a medical career. But the minute I started I said this was made for me and I never regret it. Even today, what I miss most is not being in a classroom," she said. Ms Brockdorff started her teaching career in a primary state school. She stopped when she got married and, as she raised her four children, she focused on writing.

"I was rocking the babies, one on each side, and writing on the typewriter," she said. She eventually resumed her career as an English language teacher at St Aloysius College. "Then, in 1991, I said to myself: The children are all grown up now, I want to start a University course," she said. She decided it would be theology, a subject that always interested her given her religious upbringing. Together with a friend she signed up for a one-year introductory course in theology to test the waters because she was worried about her memory failing her. After that it was a five-year Bachelors' evening course and, in 2002, she got her Masters' degree at the age of 72. She then started mulling over the idea of starting her doctorate.

But this gave rise to an internal tug of war as she had to decide whether to study or keep writing. She chose her writing and published her most recent novel *Sireni u Serenati* (Sirens and Serenades) in which she told

her war experience as a child. Ms Brockdorff just finished her 170th short story and is taking a writing break. However, she still reads a lot about theology and still writes articles for various religious magazines.

"You hear elderly people say: What am I living for? I might as well die. I have a pain here and my leg isn't moving and la-di-da. But there is a scope. Life is beautiful, if we make it beautiful. "I look forward to each day. It doesn't mean you don't get aches and pains at my age. That's the cycle of life... My message is: Don't isolate yourself. Don't try to bury yourself before it's time," she said.

**MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL (mssp)
in Toronto Canada Est. 1959**



We came in the parish of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Toronto, in February 1999. At the time Fr. Mark Demanuele was the official pastor while Fr. Dominic Cachia served as an associate pastor. In 2001, Fr. Mark Demanuele was called to serve in the missions in Pakistan, while Fr. Karm S. Borg, who came from the United States of America, was installed as the new pastor of St. Paul's. Fr. Emmanuel Parnis served as Parish Priest in this parish up to 2018.

In 2019 Fr. Mario Micallef was appointed Parish Priest. In effect, the MSSP took over the administration of this parish from the Franciscans who had been at St. Paul's since 1951. Prior to this the Missionary Society of St. Paul had been, from 1959 to 1991, in Kingsbridge and Emeryville, taking

care of the Maltese immigrants in Windsor, Ontario.

In our pastoral ministry, through the grace of God and the help of the people around us, we try to cater for the needs of the parishioners and those of the outlying geographical areas, to the best of our ability. The sacraments are administered on a regular basis in the parish and outside as required. Many times, we are called to administer to the sick and the ones who are dying. In the parish, we prepare our children and youth for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also have adult programs (RCIA) for those who are being initiated or received into full communion in the Catholic faith. As we evangelize the Good News of the Risen Lord we feel we project the goals of our Founder. With the help and support of our volunteers, we feel we are reaching our goal gradually and methodically. It seems that the length of the day does not have enough hours!

As missionaries, we feel we have a pastoral responsibility to look after the immigrants who left their homeland a long time ago. However, other nationalities also form a minor part of our community as they inter-marry with the offspring of the initial immigrants. With God's grace and the help of our Founder, we will continue to work hard for those who need us most.



**MELTON MALTESE SENIORS
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

The Melton Maltese Seniors Group was established in January 2016 by like minded local Maltese community members in the Melton region. All are welcome to join us every Friday from 10am to 2pm at the Botanica Springs community centre Clark Road Melton Victoria. The gathering involves good

company, conversation and sharing some refreshments and a cup of tea and coffee. all backgrounds welcome .

Congratulations to our Christmas raffle winners Eliz Bertu and Vicky At our Christmas picnic Day seeing most of our members after 8 months. A big thank you to the wonderful committee..



JOANNE CAMILLERI WRITES FROM CANADA

Dear Editor Frank Scicluna, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to the Commonwealth of Canada Dr. Raymond Christian Xerri, for his abilities, enthusiasm and constant support, giving of his time and guidance and being Canada's mentor in all capacities to the Maltese and Maltese-Canadian community here in Toronto, Canada.

I am a second-generation Maltese - Canadian and I am full-time professional choreographer, Instructor, artistic director and performer in theater, fusion middle eastern arts and contemporary circus here in Toronto Canada. I am so compelled to write this letter and express my thanks and how truly wonderful and expansive it has been for myself and for the arts community I work with in Toronto to have Dr. Raymond Xerri as our Consul General.

Consul general Raymond Xerri by displaying a variety of avenues and resources made it possible



Dr. Raymond Xerri

for me to connect with Malta to potentially produce an artistic project that is connected to Malta's prehistory. I have sourced and researched ways to connect and get closer and better acquainted with Malta regarding my artistic work but found it very difficult to connect. It was only when I had the opportunity to meet our most recent General Consul Raymond Xerri that I was able to take the necessary steps to connect with Malta.

The work I hope to share with Malta, Gozo and the masses is a ninety-minute two act, fourteen scene multi-media dance-musical of the story of the Goddess of Fertility. The entire production will feature professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals and narration. My vision was to present this project in Malta, Gozo at the Astra Theater but now with COVID we will present this story here in Toronto Canada on November 18th, 19th, 20th, 2021 at the Redwood theater. During which the presentation of the Goddess of Fertility will be streamed live to the World as a "pay what you can" with proceeds to go to the preservation of the Neolithic Temples Ggantija on the island of Gozo and Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra on the island of Malta.

Dr Raymond Xerri has by example been undeniably an exceptional leader here in Canada, not only to the first-generation born in Malta with an allegiance to her history but also supporting educating and encouraging the second and third generation Maltese – Canadians of the importance of being our best we can be and by staying connected to our community, we can flourish personally and in our careers as Maltese – Canadians.

I look so forward to reaching out further and connecting with Malta's citizens and acclaimed artistic community to one day present what is amongst the oldest stories in history, the ancient story of the Goddess of Fertility. <https://www.joannedancer.com/>

DANCE OF THE RISING GODDESS – INANNA' MUSICAL

Press Release Issue Date: Dec 04, 2020

2020 was a very difficult year for all of us, however, it was particularly hard for those who work in the area of The Arts and Culture. The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada has been closely following developments in these areas and lending a hand to negatively affected Maltese Canadian notable artists by closures brought about by COVID19.

Joanne Lourdes Camilleri, Maltese Canadian artistic director, performer, choreographer, instructor and producer in Middle Eastern dance and performing arts at the University of Toronto, Hart House,

is one such artist who is well-known in Canada, Europe and in the United States where over the past two decades have performed in many films and television projects.

The presentation of Dance of the Rising Goddess - INANNA is a full length ninety-minute two act,

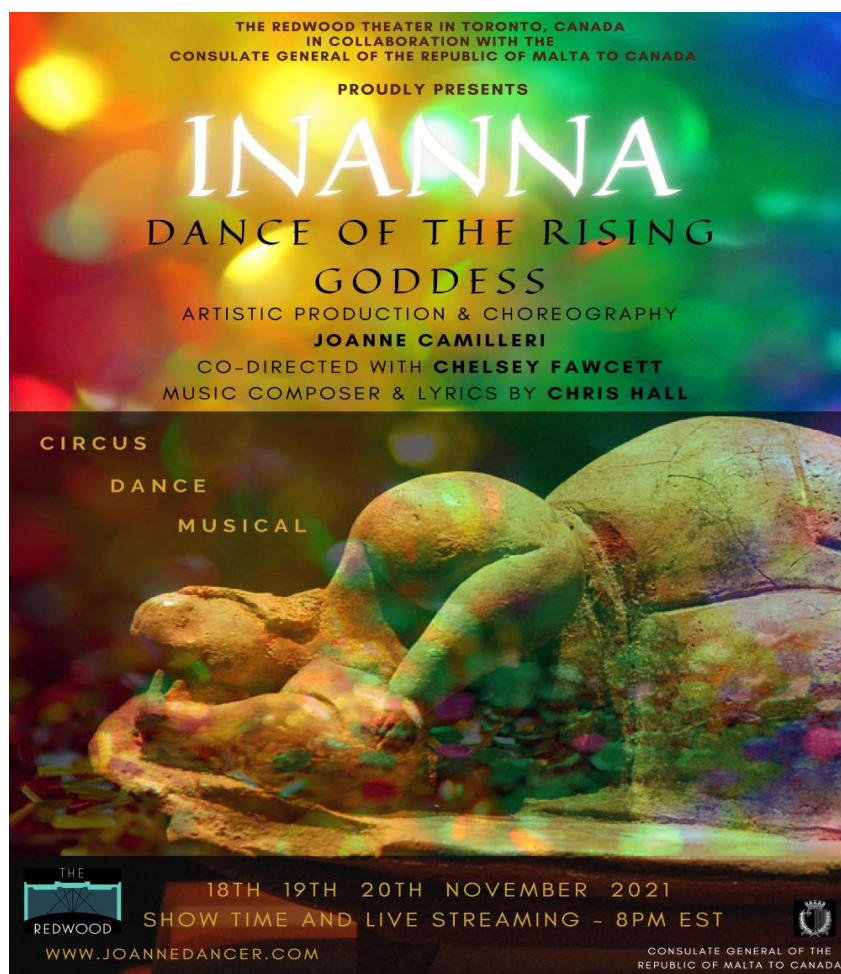


fourteen scene, multimedia dance-musical. The entire production will feature professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals, narration and circles around Malta's goddess of fertility story.

Renowned Maltese Canadian artist Camilleri will be assisted by Chris Hall (composer, arranger and producer), Keith Holding (director, technical director and producer) and Maltese Canadian Isabel Camilleri, (one of Canada's renowned costume designers).

This production, in Maltese named for Camilleri's Maltese 'grandmother,' in Maltese 'in-nanna', referring to all her grandmothers since antiquity, is part of a dance company called 'Ancient Rumbblings' which is based in Toronto, Canada. In 2020, Camilleri and her sizeable cast was scheduled to perform this show in Malta, however, COVID19 has prevented this production from being performed at the Astra Opera Theatre in Victoria, Gozo for this year, however it is predicted to be performed on May 14th and 15th, 2021.

In the meantime, the premiere performance will be on 18, 19 and 20 November 2021, at the Redwood Theatre in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, Canada.



With the financial support from Malta and the generous assistance from the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri, artist Camilleri's case is planning to fly to Malta in 2021 to perform this unique spectacle in the Maltese Islands.

In the launch of the official poster for this spectacle, producer Joanne Camilleri wholeheartedly thanked the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada for the constant and consistent logistical and Consul General, Dr Raymond C. Xerri stated that this production is not only unique to the Maltese Islands, it's an original artistic masterpiece with enormous potential in a variety of spheres, which not only narrates one of our civilization's oldest stories but has all the elements and hallmark to

transcend into a permanent Maltese heritage production which can be treasured by all Maltese and millions of tourists who visit our islands alike.



Favourite fish among Maltese

TVM discussed fish and fishing with Alicia Said, Director of Fisheries within the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Said stated that unfortunately according to research carried out by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in both 2018 and 2019 the most consumed fish by the Maltese was Salmon, which is

imported fish that comes from outside the Mediterranean and is not local. She added that the lampuka (dorado) is the second favourite, followed by tuna and octopus.

She believes that the reason why salmon remains at the top of the list is the large investment made by producers to market this product especially in Norway and Scotland. Said explained that this attraction to 'overseas' fish can also be attributed to our culture of wanting what we see on television. 'Popolin' spoke to fishmongers to find out about Maltese consumption.

The sellers at the Marsaxlokk markets all agreed that the fish most in demand with the Maltese was fresh lampuka. In fact the latest survey conducted by the National Statistics Office indicates that in 2019 the three most caught fish by Maltese fishermen were the big-eyed mackerel, the lampuka and the swordfish.



2018

Maltese
an
local.
by tuna

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fish can



President, Mrs Vella launch 11th edition of book 'Tisjir mill-Qalb'

President George Vella and Mrs Vella followed the printing process of the 11th edition of the publication 'Tisjir mill-Qalb', which will be on sale in the coming days.

This recipe book will be on sale for €10, in aid of The Malta Community Chest Fund

Foundation.

'Tisjir mill-Qalb' consists of almost 200 pages and will be published in both Maltese and English. For the first time, it will have a different style than usual and will include recipes from 16 local chefs mentioned in the 'Michelin Guide Malta', who presented a total of 80 different recipes.

While visiting the staff at Best Print, President Vella thanked all those who contributed to this edition including the chefs and restaurant owners who immediately agreed to give their contribution and without whom this book would not have been made possible.

The President urged the people of Malta and Gozo to get a copy of 'Tisjir mill-Qalb', as they will also be contributing to The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, which requires the generosity of the people, not just in Christmas but throughout the whole year, particularly this year. The book 'Tisjir mill-Qalb' was printed by Best Print Ltd and can be purchased from Scotts Supermarket, Pavi/Pama, Agenda, Maypole, from Maltapost branches and major bookshops in Malta and Gozo as well as from Kitchen Garden, Valletta Palace, and San Anton Palace.

APOSTLE PAUL'S SHIPWRECK by Mark Gatt



Do we have the artefacts that indicate the shipwreck location?

Over the centuries many claims have been made, both in Malta and in other Mediterranean countries, for the exact location of Apostle Paul's shipwreck in 60 AD.

These past decades scuba diving has brought up artefacts from our seabed that can help us solve this puzzle. But the discovered artefacts alone are not enough. These have to correspond with St Luke's account of the shipwreck in chapter 27 of the Acts of the Apostles and they also have to fit

in with the surrounding terrain.

Diving in the early days of scuba diving in Malta, Commodore Salvino Scicluna mapped various artefacts discovered around the Maltese Islands. We now refer to the Scicluna Map for a detailed sketch of the various artefacts found outside Salina Bay. The large size of Roman period anchors and the considerable concentration of amphoras indicate the shipwreck of a large ship and not that of the smaller ships usually trading in the area. "We were in all 276

persons in the ship." Acts 27:37 ESV

The Scicluna map indicates the world record holding largest lead anchor stock ever discovered. This massive Roman period anchor sits proudly on display at the Maritime Museum in Birgu. Some historians refer to an anchor of this size as a Sacred Anchor and that these were only deployed as a last resort to avoid imminent shipwreck. Scicluna sketches another 4 anchors and other artefacts discovered in the same location. We know from a contemporary writer, Lucian of Samasota who counted eleven such



anchors on the colossal Isis Egyptian Grain Ship which could also carry 600 people onboard. Fifteen years ago scuba diving brought up another Roman period anchor with the Egyptian gods ISIS ~ SARAPIS embossed on it. This lead anchor stock is also on display at the Maritime Museum, Birgu. The old adage that all roads lead to Rome applies also to the ancient sea lanes. Rome depended on grain coming from everywhere but especially from Alexandria. Egypt was Rome's breadbasket. Grain was important to Rome and to appease the population Emperors distributed bread. Panem et Circenses – bread and violent games, or there would be rioting! The names of Egyptian gods embossed on this anchor together with the massive size of the anchors and the very large concentration of pottery scattered over the seabed, suggests that the ship wrecked off Qawra Point was an Alexandrian grain ship. "There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board." Acts 27:6 ESV



Between 1963 – 1968 archaeologists from the Missione Archaeologica Italiana and the Maltese Museums Department discovered a limestone slab buried under the chapel at San Pawl Milqi in Burmarrad. This slab has the graffiti of a bearded man and that of a ship with a square sail and a single mast. The place where it was found suggests that it had been buried there for centuries. Medieval art of the shipwreck always paints us a picture of

not a single-masted ship with a large ancient square sail. Could this graffiti have been inscribed by an early Christian and refers to an Egyptian grain ship and St Paul? This slab is in the Valletta Heritage Malta stores.

The Scicluna Map correctly suggests that before the Knights of St John constructed the Salini (Salt Pans) the sea flowed further inland into Burmarrad and very close to San Pawl Milqi. Roman period ruins at this place indicate a large industry of oil production. The name translates to St Paul welcomed, showing a longstanding Pauline tradition carried down through the centuries. Many believe that this estate belonged to Melita's Primus, Publius. "Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days." Acts 28:7 ESV

When one examines the artefacts discovered on the seabed, the location and evidence on land and compares these with St Luke's narrative, there can be little doubt that we have the evidence to prove the shipwreck location.

Maltese/American Pete Buttigieg lined up as America's ambassador to China

Amy Borg NEWSBOOK.COM.MT



President elect of the United States of America, Joe Biden is considering sending Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, to China as the next American ambassador.

This is considered to be a major role for the US to maintain good relations, especially economic relations, with China.

It is being reported by Axios that Biden is looking for a suitably high-profile spot for Buttigieg who dropped out of the Democratic nomination race in March to consolidate moderate support around the former vice-president. The two have reportedly discussed Beijing as an option

Earlier this month, Joe Biden announced an

all-female senior White House communications team in what has been described as a first in the country's history.

‘GOOD CATHOLIC GIRL’ WINERY

South Australia - Deus Benedicat



My story begins with my paternal Grandmother Dorothy Douglas Wilson, the quintessential good catholic girl. She was one of four children, the youngest being her only brother James Brazill Wilson. As a child I was always fascinated by the gold locket that my grandmother wore, always requesting she open it and show me the photos inside. All she would say was, *"This is Jim my brother, and this is Neil my youngest son."*

I was happy with those answers and left it at that, not realizing that my grandmother was too heartbroken to give me any further details for fear,

I suspect, that I would keep asking questions and she would become upset. It was many years later and long after my beloved grandmother had died that I found a tiny piece of yellowed newsprint (94 years old in fact) which read; WILSON.- In loving memory of Lieutenant J.B.Wilson, 52nd Battalion, A.I.F., killed in action at Mouquet Farm, France on the 3rd September, 1916. – Inserted by his mother, father, and sisters.

Dorothy went on to marry Fred Barry a Christian Brother's scholar and they had four children. When her first son was born, my father, she named him in honour of her deeply missed and loved brother James Brazill, a name my father carried with pride throughout his life. The other photo in the locket, if you are wondering, was of her youngest son Neil who died at the age of 8 after a tonsil operation, an operation my father made sure none of his six children had!

Dorothy's faith was deep and strong as was she, and it was her faith, I have no doubt, that sustained her through her darkest moments, I know she would be delighted that I have named my Limerick Shiraz after two very important and loved people in her life.

To keep the bloodlines pure, my one hectare of high ground was planted with cuttings from my father's famed Armagh Shiraz Vineyard just across the paddock. The first release of 'THE JAMES BRAZILL' Shiraz was in 2005 which was picked on 2/4/05 the day Pope John Paul 11 departed for Heaven. I followed this with the release of my 'TERESA' Riesling in 2008. By the grace of God it has been full steam ahead ever since, and I am delighted to report that I now have a swag of GCG devotees. Many of whom are convinced that the consumption of Good Catholic Girl wines will fast track them to heaven!

Good Catholic Girl is the venture of Julie Ann Barry, one of the many children of the late Jim Barry. She says, "Having been born into a Catholic wine family, in vintage, my fate was sealed. My Limerick Vineyard was planted in the Armagh area of the Clare Valley in 1997, with cuttings taken from my father's famed Armagh shiraz vines planted across the paddock.' The Shiraz is named The James Brazill, Jim Barry's Christian names. She takes up the story thus: ?In 2008 I made my first Clare Valley Riesling, ?Teresa?, named after my mother, who is the true GCG (good catholic girl), and loves Clare Riesling, and who may in time consume my entire production of 108 dozen!' 2011 dealt Julie a double blow with the loss of the fruit for the James Brazill Shiraz and the contract-grown Teresa Riesling. Exports to the US. Author: James Halliday



Josephine Zammit AM MBE (1925-1988) A WOMAN WITH A VOICE IN N.S.W.

Josephine Zammit was a Maltese broadcaster and community worker in New South Wales, Australia. Josephine emigrated to Australia from Malta with her husband Charles in 1952. Josephine was born to Paul and Pauline Darmania in 1925, the youngest of a family of six, Josephine qualified as a teacher in 1945 at the age of 20 years. She married Charles Zammit, a building contractor, in 1947, which ended her teaching career (as used to be the case in those days).

She migrated to Australia in 1952 when she was 27 years old, and was soon involved in social work. In the late 1960s the couple became Australian representatives of the Malta Emigrants' Commission and Josephine became involved in radio broadcasting as part of her welfare work with migrants.

Josephine's radio programme had made her more convinced than ever that "The need for social work among migrants is far greater than anyone can imagine" ³¹. In a letter to Monsignor Calleja, in March 1972, she outlined some of the local cases with which she had been dealing during that particular week. There were seven in all: Mr. T. of Seven Hills, who had become an invalid after a back injury; Mrs. D., who married in Australia but who now wanted a divorce due to her husband's mental state; Mr. F., who owed money to people in Malta; Miss G., "an unmarried mother, whose father wants to disown her and kicked her out of the house — babe and all"; J.B., "abandoned by wife, who finally returned but difficulties still exist"; Mrs. C., "a widow of 48, who is very lonely and would like to find a partner"; and Mr. G. who "needs finance for a house" ³². Additionally, she advised Monsignor Calleja, "there are the many lonely housewives, single girls and single boys trying hard to find each other in these vast cities, unemployed looking for jobs, and other difficulties: how to apply for pensions and who is eligible, how to apply for passports and many other difficulties that life in a strange and vast country presents"

newly arrived migrants. In a single year they nominated 66 Maltese migrants and helped them to find accommodation and work. Josephine was also involved in other areas involving Maltese migrants. She organized the Maltese Australian Women's Association in the early 1970s and later helped form the Maltese-Australian Social Welfare Association. In addition she organised 'Malta Day' at Goulburn College of Advanced Education, and gave talks about Maltese culture.

She was also: • Foundation member of the NSW Ethnic Communities Council • Member of the NSW Ethnic Consultative Council (later Ethnic Affairs Commission), • Member of the Australian Ethnic Affairs Council Josephine was best known as an ethnic radio personality in Sydney. This started in 1975 when Mr Al Grassby, the then Minister for Immigration, announced the launching of 2EA Radio station. Josephine Zammit was appointed coordinator of the Maltese program. This was on a voluntary basis. Broadcasting started on 9 June 1975 in Sydney and Melbourne. Josephine received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal and the MBE in 1978. She always regarded herself as Maltese and returned to Malta frequently. She passed away at the age of 63 on May 4, 1988.

She was a pioneer of ethnic station 2EA in Sydney and continued her active involvement with ethnic radio broadcasting until the mid-1980s. Josephine received many other honours for her dedication to the Maltese community in Australia, including The Midalja Għall-Qadi tar-Republika in 1995, Honorary member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2003 and the Gieh il-Hamrun in May 2011. Josephine went to Malta and became involved in the Single Women Migrants Scheme of the early 1960s, becoming a member of the Malta Emigrants Commission. She accompanied five girls to Australia in 1962 under this scheme.

As the Australian representative of the Malta Emigrants Commission she helped

WE REMEMBER THE MALTESE ACHIEVERS OF THE PAST



IL-MALTIN TAGHNA

On Sunday December 6th 2020 at 12pm EST, the Maltese Center presented its first live ZOOM show **IL-MALTIN TAGHNA** with guest *Ms. Francesca Cassar*,

a Maltese diplomat who is our Consul in New York at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations. This new show features live conversations with interesting people who do extraordinary things. Each guest shares his or her experiences and accomplishments ending with a moderated Q & A between the guest and the audience. To be a part of the live audience, participants must register [here](https://www.themaltesecenter.com/expert-series-1-0). The interview puts a spotlight on Maltese in our community near and far, exploring what they do. Ms. Cassar explained her role within the Maltese consulate, her representation of Malta here at the United Nations, and how she transitioned from a classical ballerina to diplomacy. Through the Q & A the audience were able to ask Ms. Cassar questions ranging from obtaining Maltese passports to her point of view from living in Malta to moving to New York, and what it means to be Maltese. We are proud and honored to have Ms. Francesca Cassar as part of the Maltese delegation in New York, representing Malta and its citizens. She truly showed her passion for her role as Consul and for being our first guest right here on IL-MALTIN TAGHNA. To view the recording of the show or see the upcoming schedule of guests click [here](https://www.themaltesecenter.com/expert-series-1-0). <https://www.themaltesecenter.com/expert-series-1-0>

We have an impressive lineup for December going into 2021. This coming Sunday December 13th 2020 at 12pm EST our next guest is bestselling award winning author of a historical saga, *Ms. Marthese Fenech*. Find out how her passion for storytelling, history, and a summer trip became the catalyst for the "Eight Pointed Cross" and disappearing.

the newly released "Falcons Shadow". Register Last month the Maltese Center made a donation appeal to you to help offset ongoing operating costs. As of this newsletter we have received \$6000 in donations towards the appeal which is roughly 40% of our goal. We are so humbled by all your donations, new memberships, and renewals since we began the appeal in November. There are 21 days left in our appeal - donations in any amount helps us reach our goal, keeping your Center alive. We have made it easy for you to donate, renew, or join all on our website, just click [here](https://www.themaltesecenter.com/).

Look for our upcoming auction "**7 days of Christmas**" beginning December 12th. Each day we will post an item for 24 hours, bids must be submitted, and the item will be sold to the highest bidder. All monies raised through the auction will be considered a donation to go towards the appeal. Everybody wins!

If you would like to donate an item for the auction

click <https://www.themaltesecenter.com/>
Donations must be new.

Remember to visit our [website](https://www.themaltesecenter.com/) and browse our pages. Members can login to access the members only site area after registering. If you have been missing emails or communications from the Maltese Center be sure that we are on your safe senders list and not ending up in your spam, junk, or other folders. Add us to your address book to be sure our emails always get delivered to your primary inbox.

IL-MALTIN TAGHNA with Magna Żmien Dec 20, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Online event – ZOOM The MŻ Foundation are looking forward to meeting members of the Maltese diaspora in NY, presenting our project to the Maltese overseas and discussing why your stories and your memories are important to us and how we can collectively save the memories of Maltese migrants from

We are proud of our Maltese Achievers

FR. MANUEL ADAMI mssp writes again

Let's not let the devil deceive you who make us remember past hurts constantly feeling sad and disappointed. People who hurt you. Think of the past good things you passed through in life.

Why so many suicides and attempted ones? They cause terrible sadness to family, friends, doctors, nurses and social workers.

So many people go around like dead men walking. They inflict pain on themselves. Painful meditating on guilt, shame, frustration, feeling victims of one kind or another, depressed. Let's not let the devil deceive us making us remember past hurts constantly feeling sad and disappointed. Think of the past good things you experienced in life.

Jesus gives us hope. To the sinners He gave hope. The parables and His teaching are full of shining hope and happiness. I wish you happy thinking now and for all eternity. Viva Cristo Rey!

I met many Maltese achievers in Melbourne, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, London, Tripoli, Corfu' after so many generations says Mons Philip Calleja the Maltese there passed the faith to four, five six generations and have a bishop of Maltese descendance, Bishop Azopardis.

Then I ate pastizzi in Adelaide, Brisbane, Detroit, New York, Marcelle, Catania, Hanover and were the Maltese missionaries are around the globe. Achievers not only in pastizzi and Kinnie but in all spheres of life. They are positive thinkers who believed in themselves.

Beware of narcissists. This is a terrible psychological and spiritual affliction. Do not engage with such people which is a waste of time. Love them and pray for them but avoid them. Victor Borg once told me, don't let the bastard crush you down. It's their problem not yours. It is essential to look after your emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Do not let others steal your peace.

You meet people who want to hurt you to feel better, to humiliate you to live. People who are spiritually blind who are self-centred. St Francis of Assisi says that you are what you are before God, nothing more, nothing less and nothing else. Whatever they say. Keep going.

Be happy with what you are, where you are and what you have. Pray, Pray and Pray. Prayer is more powerful than work. Just keep faithfully following the Good Shepherd. Trust completely in the Lord, no matter what the situation is or how things appear. God is never defeated. He will save you.

I finish now with a thought of Nelson Mandela. When he was released from prison he said: If I recourse to vengeance, I will keep myself a prisoner in my heart.

And another one from St Paul: I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me. PH 4:13.

Now go to your back garden relax and smell your roses and the tiny violets and praise God with them. HAPPY and Peaceful Christmas. with your family. I love you all.

Gozo Choir Celebrating 30 years of music



Gozo's Gaulitanus Choir has been celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Its first performance dates back to the 27th, 1990, when it participated in a Musico-Literary Evening at the Qala Parish Church – the first of two celebratory grand musical events organised by the parish and entrusted to the then up-and-coming Mro Colin Attard.

The choir said that this was deemed the right opportunity to formalise and 'christen' the choral group which the maestro used to form 'ad hoc' for his various musical events in the preceding decade.

The chosen name was 'Gaulitanus', meaning 'of Gozo' – as members hailed from all over the island. It said that this was the island's first 'independent' and non-affiliated choir. The choir said that it gradually started making its presence felt, "giving its own direct contribution to the development of culture in our islands, essentially offering its activity for free." It also started appearing regularly in mainland Malta.

Besides other activity, the choir acquired a broader national profile through its involvement in the series of grand concerts devoted to Carmelo Pace music organised by the Mdina Cathedral Museum Committee between 1997 and 2008, generally at the Mdina Cathedral.

Throughout, the choir explained that it has been very creative, introducing new genres and concepts. In line with its secular-orientation, it has presented a quite extensive and versatile repertoire, often presenting new genres – whether operatic or chamber, light or semi-classical, and without refraining from putting on sacred works. There are soloists, and it has three ‘particular’ CDs to its name. All this was very favourably received by public and critics alike. Arguably, the choir’s biggest feat is the organisation of “Gaulitana: A Festival of Music.” Launched in 2007, this international festival has developed extensively, betraying the size of the organisation itself.

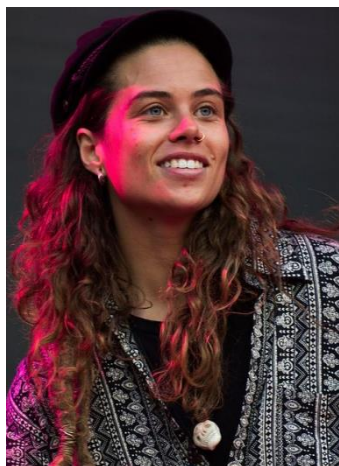
Featuring an eclectic mix of musical genres – from a fully-fledged opera to symphonic concerts, from choral to chamber, from light to sacred, as well as exhibitions and an educational programme – it is held around Gozo, and firmly ingrained within Malta’s cultural calendar.

Receiving national and international recognition, the choir said that it has been referred to as “a major festival of classical music” by the UK’s oldest musical journal Musical Opinion (Oct-Dec 2017) and awarded the prestigious EFFE (Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe) label by the European Festivals Association.

The Gaulitanus Choir remarked that in these three decades, “a most rewarding, albeit challenging, choir initiative was concert tours.” With 19 ventures so far, the first being in 1995, the international programme of events became very constant and intensive in recent years, unfortunately brought to halt by the pandemic.

Featuring abroad three times in a single calendar year – which recurred from 2017 till 2019 – wrote an “unprecedented page in local choral history,” the choir said.

It also became the first Maltese choir to take part in an operatic production abroad, appearing at Taormina’s Teatro Antico, which was also transmitted worldwide in cinemas and TVs. For this, renowned international critic Jim Pritchard hailed “the splendid chorus.” in a review appearing on Seen and Heard International.



ROM NEWS.COM.AU

NATASHA SULTANA

I don’t know what that woman’s been doing at supermarkets but there are markers on the floor there too you’re supposed to stand on. Cue my own eye roll.

Another group of particularly douchey guys walked past a staff member and said, “Oh, so you’re the marshal?” and she told them she was actually a security guard. Not that a COVID marshal is not as important, as if that’s what they were suggesting.

In my opinion the best part about gigs now is you can sit down - and you don’t have anyone either side of you.

You’re not getting knocked around, having sweat flung on you or drinks spilt on you.

While for the most part this concept went smoothly, we still had one particularly inconsiderate woman rush past us and knock our drinks over, not giving us time to move them or adjust our legs for her.

I have to admit among all this, even we broke the rules. At one point towards the end of the - what can only be described as a phenomenal show - everyone was itching to stand up and slowly groups of people did.

I suppose everyone figured if the whole crowd did it, how were they going to tell everyone to sit down?

I felt like a naughty school student doing the wrong thing and at first I couldn’t bring myself to do it. Eventually I did and I have to say for those few minutes we were swaying around, it felt amazing being able to briefly dance again.

The security guards sure enough got around and told everyone to sit back down, and they did so very kindly. They were also helped by Tash who said while she appreciated everyone’s enthusiasm they had to sit down or the show would be cut.

The thing about 2020 is everyone gets it - generally. They know we're desperate to have a good time and feel normal again - but they know they don't want to be responsible for a virus outbreak.

It's a shame not everyone is on the same page.

And after a year that's been marred by so much tragedy and heartbreak, this kind of show was what 2020 really needed. As someone on YouTube pointed out, "The people at this show are some of the luckiest people alive at the moment".

I certainly felt like one of them, and I think people forget that sentiment as others in much tougher situations or lockdowns across the world [livestreamed the performance](#) from their couch.

The "epic" performance nearly didn't go ahead - Tash lost her voice early in the week and was going to have to cancel.

After practising in front of her dog at home all year, this would have been devastating, but of course she prevailed. "I waited all year patiently for this one night," she wrote on Instagram afterwards.

"I rehearsed every single day for months. This room was more than I could have ever dreamed last night, I can't believe I played a real show with real people this year.

"Thank you everyone for your energy and genuine love and support. I felt every single one of you and I hope you felt my spirit too." Her energy on stage was electric and the entire room - and everyone at home - was captivated. The show was part of the Great Southern Nights series of concerts around NSW that's bringing live music back to venues and what a treat it's been. It was actually Tash's last solo performance before she releases her new album in February, when she'll have more people on stage with her. "Just wait until you see what I have in store for you," she told the crowd. I know I can't wait for 2021.



Caroline Springs George Cross FC VICTORIA.

The Caroline Springs George Cross FC annual general meeting was held this morning. Congratulations to Tony

Tabone, Mark Grech, Fred Cachia and Peter Cauchi who were inducted as life members of the club. Your service over the years has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.



George Cross Football Club was established on March 12th 1947. In the early 1980's after settling in Sunshine, the club merged with Sunshine City which resulted in a name change and Sunshine George Cross was born.

George Cross was formed in 1947. Joined the State League in 1958 and played there until 1983. In 1983 the club amalgamated with Sunshine City and became Sunshine George Cross. In 1984 SGC joined the National League and played 200 matches until being omitted from the NSL in 2001. Since then SGc has played in the Premier League, 1st division and 2nd division. The club joined the NPL1 in 2014



"Art is something ingrained within me. I'm a big dreamer...and I wish to achieve all of my dreams. Sometimes I make big plans. I've worked on various project in Gozo, one of them is at Għajnsielem where 47 mosaic pieces were stuck on outdoor stairs. We tried to revamp an abandoned place. I like to share my dreams with others. I like to share my knowledge and experience with others. I like to use mosaic in my work with children and even with people with mental health problems. I started using mosaic around twelve years ago. Before, I used to paint with pastels and work with glass. In 2012 I won the "Artigjanat Malti" award. Ideas are triggered in my head as soon as I hear people around me talking and sharing ideas." - Mary Portelli

"I believe that everyone can build and create something. Where there's a will to learn, you will learn. Everyone can develop a talent. If you do not try you will never know what gifts you might have. I started with drawing, moved on to photography and a few years ago I started sculpture. In fact I started work on sculptures in stone and clay 14 years ago. Maltese stone is not easy to work with but has a lot to offer. Before I start working I think of a subject and then plan on how to develop it. I draw a sketch and then create a 3 dimensional model. I attended the School of Art for a year to learn. I try to be creative in what I do and not imitate the work of others. I try to produce something that is both

original and artistic." - Anthony Xuereb – Birzebbugia Malta.

**MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
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COVID-19

X'garali f'daqqa waħda
Kif telaqni kulhadd
Hallewni waħdi sulu
Jien waħdi ma kont qatt.

Hallewni fuq pultruna
Naħseb u nirrifletti
Kemm hi sabiħa l-ħajja
Anke b'xi ftit difetti.

M'għadhomx jippranzaw miegħi
Fil-festi u nhar ta' Ħadd
Nitnikket ruħi waħdi
Kif m'għadu jiġi ħadd.

Kemm kien sabiħ inbakkar
U mmur nisma il-quddies
U wara immur xi mixja
U nparla ftit man-nies.

Issa ma nafx x'garali
Ma nista nara xejn
Li ma nitfawx ġo żaqqi
U bajda għal waħda tnejn.

U kif sakkritni gewwa
Miħuta din l-imxija
Nixtieq nibda mmur nimxi
Filgħodu u filgħaxija.

Issa la jgħaddi kolloxx u
Normali tigi l-ħajja
Immorru insiefru safra
Jew nixxalaw mal-plajja.

Joseph Scerri

**Why don't you join
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journal? Whether
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you may join us
and help to spread
this very important
and only journal
that is read by
thousands**



new years eve

Thursday 31 December 2020 - Doors open 7.30pm

Welcome the New Year



at La Valette Social Centre

175 Walters Road, Blacktown
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Charlie Camilleri



Tickets: Members \$55 - Non-Members \$60
3-Course Meal, Soft Drinks & Wine

for tickets contact:

Frances 0412 320 432 - Antoinette 9671 2992
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MALTESE CHILDREN'S TRADITIONAL RHYMES



Pizzi pizza kanna -
Duluri ta' Sant' Anna -
Sant' Anna tal-Murina -
Fhabba biċċa pellegrina -
Mgħaref tal-fidda -
Bandiera tal-ħarir -
Noli kannoli -
Insara Qaddisin -

Pizzi pizza kanna
Dolores of Saint Anne
Saint Anne of the Marina
Because of a piece of Pellegrina
Spoons made of silver
A flag made of silk
Noli Kannoli
Christians and Saints



Ajma żaqqi kemm tuġġhani -
Għax kilt l-għeneb mhux misjur -
Iddendilt mal-kannizzata -
Qisni kelb tal-kaċċatur -

I've got a tummy ache
Because I ate unripe grapes
I climbed up the vine trellis
Like a hunter's dog

Għamel, xita, għamel -
Halli jinbet il-ħaxix -
Il-ħaxix intuh lill-mogħża -
U l' mogħża ttina l-ħalib -
Orqod ibni orqod -
Fil-benniena tal-ħarir -
Dik ommok il-Madonna -
Missierek Ġesù Bambin -

Rain, rain, rain
So that grass may grow
We shall give grass to the goat
The goat will give us milk
Sleep, sleep my child
In a cradle made of silk
The Holy Virgin is your Mother
Jesus Christ is your Father

SNIPPETS FROM WORLD WAR 1

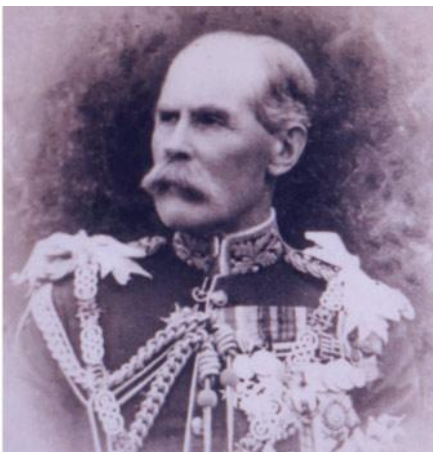


Among the officially gazetted Roman Catholic chaplains to the forces were Rev. Fr J. Verzin and Rev. Mgr Canon P. Cavendish, who proceeded to the Dardanelles together with Maltese officers. Both had served with the British contingent in Crete during the insurrection in 1896. While serving in Gallipoli, Fr Verzin fell ill and was invalided; he was a patient in a hospital in Alexandria before he returned to Malta.

Other military chaplains were Rev. Mgr Canon F. Ferris, Rev. Fr G.M. Consiglio of the Augustinian Order, who served in one of the hospital ships, and Rev. Fr G. Dimech from Mosta (picture left), who took spiritual charge of the Maltese stevedores of the Maltese Labour Corps Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Lemnos and Gallipoli.

The first Roman Catholic service for French families in Malta was held in the church of St Barbara in Valletta. A large congregation attended, so much so that the church did not offer sufficient accommodation; several of the congregation had to stand throughout the whole service.

Madame Chochprat, wife of the distinguished admiral, greeted the ladies as they arrived. Rev. Fr L. Barthet, superior of the Franciscans Order of Friars Minor Conventual, celebrated Mass and delivered a sermon in French, which was listened to with great attention and highly appreciated. The congregation included persons of every rank, from the ordinary seaman to the captain of the man-of-war.



Lord Kitchener, who complimented the Maltese Corps while carrying out an inspection of the Allied position in Gallipoli.

Right: Governor of Malta, Lord Methuen, through whose foresight Malta was well equipped with hospitals for the Gallipoli campaign.

Pope Pius X died in August 1914. The announcement of his death would, at any other time, have thrown half the world into the saddest commotion. But the world was shaken to its foundation by the war. The

hoarse roar of battle, the sweep and crash of cavalry and the clash of lance and sword drowned all sounds.

The Pope was the representative of Christ, the divine man of peace, who came on earth to reconcile nations with each other and to heal all the diseases of mankind, of which war is, perhaps, the very worst. In the first months following the start of hostilities, Malta almost enjoyed the blessings of peace, except for an immediate upward trend in the prices of food and essential commodities.

The government exercised vigilance. To ensure an adequate supply of sugar, it was distributed through government-licenced retail sugar dealers who were obliged to affix in a conspicuous part of their shops their licences and lists of retail prices as fixed by the government. Non-compliance could lead to imprisonment. In order to ease the situation, the prohibition of the export of foodstuffs from the UK to Malta was withdrawn. Meanwhile, export of potatoes, onion and oranges from Malta to all destinations was not allowed. Beef was imported for the first time from Australia, though this measure had still to be accepted by the population. Cattle were imported from Tunis and the Sudan. As a result of the presence of a large garrison on the island, the military authorities offered to favourably consider claims for damages to crops, trees and other private property caused by the troops. [to be continued]

The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society



Maltese Own Band during Covid-19 Lockdown

The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society has had to endure the consequences of the Covid-19 Lockdown, as have all other social and community

groups during these extraordinary times. This situation has been unprecedented in the Maltese Own Band's 43 year history and has caused and required unfortunate repercussions.

The Maltese Own Band has been at the forefront of Maltese Culture since 1978, in promoting Maltese music and its traditions and culture to not only the Maltese community, but the general public as well, not only in its home state of Victoria, but in N.S.W, South Australia and Queensland as well. The Maltese Own Band have not been able to rehearse or perform due to the cancelation of all Feasts and Community events that would have taken place normally.

Isolation has meant that we have had to find ways of still engaging our members in some sort of social way to keep up our member's morale, as to many members, the Band is an integral part of their lives.

The Committee quickly embraced technology and were able to continue their monthly meetings electronically via Zoom. It was also decided to set up weekly Zoom catch-ups for all our members, where they would be able to chat socially and keep in touch with their band friends. The committee members also took it upon themselves to periodically ring any members that were not able to take part in the Zoom catch ups to check on their welfare and see if there was anything they needed.

At the request of some followers that were missing hearing us play at feasts, we implemented the "Marci Monday" initiative on Facebook where we began sharing recordings taken over the years.

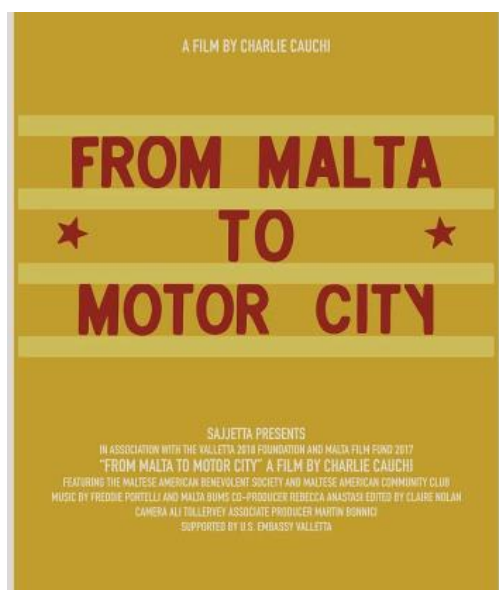
To continue to nurture the valuable friendships built between the families of band members, the Committee also ran various family friendly social events, such as an online music trivia night.

To keep the musical side of thing going, our Bandmaster Mro. Mario Cassar, suggested to organise an online performance of one of the Band's songs. It was decided to use "Do-Re-Mi", taken from our "Sound Of Music" selection, arranged by our very own Mro. Mario Cassar. Our members were asked to record their parts separately at their home and then forward them electronically to Mario where then, with the help of his extremely talented wife Fiona, put all the recordings together and uploaded the completed song to The Maltese Own Band's Facebook page. This proved to be lot of fun for our members that took part. The finished video was excellent and was fantastically well received by our Facebook followers, with almost 3,000 views so far.



**WE THANK ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS
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BRINGING THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES CLOSER
Together we defeat the COVID-19**





From Malta to Motor City This observational Documentary short captures the Maltese migrant experience in Michigan, USA.

Spending time at two Maltese clubs in Michigan in 2017, I created a portrait of emigre life for this minority community. The film is seen through the eyes of the many volunteers and members of the two Maltese clubs that still remain in the Michigan area: The Maltese American Benevolent Society (MABS) in Corktown, Detroit and the Maltese American Community Club (MACC) in Dearborn.

Eleno 'Leno' Sammut, affiliated to the former, is one of the MABS's volunteers. He is also our guide, taking us on a historic and cultural journey of Detroit's Maltese diaspora. In his mid-70s, the first time

we encounter Lino is behind the bar on a Sunday afternoon.

Offerings of traditional Maltese goods adorn the club walls, along with a myriad of old soccer trophies, sun-bleached rocky vistas and former club presidents – most dead, some still with us. Even though the Maltese are now truly a minority, this community is still resilient.

About the Film

Ford, Cadillac, General Motors – the Big Three as they are so often referred to – are an industrial and cultural beacon for the city of Detroit, Michigan. They are also the underlying reason that many of the now-well-established migrant communities dominate the area.

The Maltese were a part of a wave of economic migration, with over 6,000 in the Corktown region by the 1960s; the Big Three's peak decade. So prevalent were the Maltese, that they managed to conquer Corktown from their Catholic counterparts, the Irish.

This dominance has since been in serious decline, with only a handful of first generation Maltese left in the area. After the riots in 1967, fearful of the instability many of the families and individuals that made up the community started to settle elsewhere, in suburbs like Dearborn and Livonia. Two Maltese clubs still remain in the Michigan area: The Maltese American Benevolent Society in Corktown, Detroit and the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn.

From Malta to Motor City forms part of a larger project called [Latitude 36](#); a project stemming from my upbringing as a Maltese migrant's daughter in the United Kingdom, and brings real-life stories to the forefront to stimulate a more honest and open debate about migration. A project that engages Maltese individuals and community groups located around the world, collecting stories and unearthing both personal and collective narratives.

With the help of the Maltese diaspora, the migratory experience is placed at the core, mapping and examining migratory patterns and narratives through the visual arts.



Interview By Sarah Chircop

What were your initial questions that led to the conception of this Documentary? *"My father always had Maltese friends that we would visit and they would speak Maltese, and my father – once in a while – would maybe take me to a place where we could buy trays of pastizzi (a traditional Maltese savoury snack). My family moved back to Malta when I was 12, but I then decided to move back to the UK in my 20s. So I've grown up in both places but whenever someone asks me where I'm from I don't quite know how to answer – when I'm in Malta I*

don't feel Maltese and when I'm in London I don't feel English. So it's always this strange negotiation of identity and this was one of my starting points – how do other people like me navigate this? Issues related to Brexit have also made me reflect upon these questions of identity and belonging."

To begin answering this question, you decided to venture out and start documenting those people who can share your experience. What was your experience listening to so many stories?

"I went to Michigan for ten days and was fascinated to find out that there are 13,000 Maltese-Michiganders, from first to fourth generations. There are 2 clubs there -The Maltese-American Benevolent Society and The Maltese-American Community Club, and it's very Maltese! I'd walk into one of these clubs and I'd forget where I was. I'd have to step outside and say – oh, hold on, I'm not in Malta anymore. It was fascinating. I interviewed various Maltese people living there – either community groups or individuals of all generations – so they didn't necessarily have to be the ones that had migrated. I wanted to learn about their lives and asked them a lot of questions that had to do with Maltese national identity, and what that even means to them. We also talked about how they ended up where they were, and what their journey was like, as well as if they were the children of Maltese migrants and how being Maltese impacted their lives. We actually have enough for a feature film – we went to New York and Toronto and other parts of Canada and of course there are differences in the Maltese communities of these various places."



With the migration debate being so prevalent right now, how did your research and experience further inform the intentions of this documentary? *"I looked at stories and reports from the 1970s in London for example, were there was a lot of vice and crime and they (British) refer to us in the exact same way that we refer to migrants today. The Maltese have actually all migrated themselves, so I wanted to hold up a mirror."*

The documentary-short forms part of a larger project called LATITUDE 36 - could you tell me a bit more about this project? *"LATITUDE 36 gave me the possibility to make various pieces of work on the subject of the Maltese diaspora. I've used pre-existing work as well as commissioned new work for this project but I've always brought in the local perspective. Besides this documentary short I have also exhibited material at a solo exhibition, including a series of artworks ranging from photography and soundscapes, to build structures and moving image, which looked at stories of the Diaspora specifically in Australia, Tunisia and London. I have also worked with various experiential performances as well as created a visual installation consisting of a three-screen projection featuring snippets of conversations which I recorded when travelling and which I also mixed with archival material and home footage"*



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OF MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD**



JAMES BONELLO mssp

Ex-Superior General, and retired MSSP missionary.

When I was serving in Aplao – PERU in 1978, one of the regular activities that I was involved in was to celebrate a weekly Mass in the local prison which was a one-room affair, very close to the parish church.

Aplao, being the Capital of the Province of Castilla, was the centre of various activities for the Province, and one of them was precisely to receive condemned prisoners until they were assigned to a prison in Arequipa.

One day, the officer in charge of the prison came to the parish office and asked the parish priest for an extra Mass because a prisoner who had recently arrived, a condemned murderer, was asking incessantly for a Mass for his particular needs.

Padre Coco, as Fr. George Scerri was known throughout the Majes, told me that we should go and celebrate this Mass because obviously, the Grace of repentance and sorrow was at work in this prisoner. So, without much ado, I went to celebrate this extra Mass in the hope of being of spiritual help to this condemned man. I celebrated this Mass for him and the other inmates at around 5.00 pm and this prisoner was very calm and devout. Nothing remarkable happened.

However, the next morning we learned that this prisoner had escaped! Was this special Mass he asked for a simple ploy to help him escape? I do not know, but certainly, the ways of the Lord are infinite!



**AUSTRALIAN MALTESE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

We congratulate the AMCC National President Mr Sydney JP Borg and his girls (Lauren and Chanel) for winning the Outstanding Restaurant of the Year Award and the Gold Business of the Year Award at the Local Business Awards. Be sure to visit

**The Distillery Woodfire Restaurant
in Minchinbury NSW. Go Team Borg**



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Christmas @ Il-Haġar

4 December 2020 to
12 January 2021

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

PAINTINGS, George Scicluna
Level -1, Ground Floor, Levels 1 & 2
5 December - 12 January

Yuletide Philately
Level -1
4 December - 6 January

Traditional Crib
Ground Floor
6 December - 6 January

The Privileged Outcasts
An Exhibition of Crib Statuettes
Ground Floor
22 December - 6 January

PUBLIC LECTURE

Mattia Preti, New discoveries
Prof. Keith Sciberras
Level 3
12 December at 10.30

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Christmas Charm
Instrumental & Vocal Recital
Level 3
12 December at 11.30

Gloria in Excelsis
Laudate Pueri Choir
Level 3
19 December at 11.30

Il-Haġar | Heart of Gozo Museum & Cultural Centre

Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria, Gozo, Malta

Monday to Sunday

09:00 to 17:00

The Museum is closed on Christmas Day
and New Year's Day

The organisers are adhering to the
health and safety directives and
regulations, relevant during that period,
issued by the Health Authorities



Klabb Ghannejja Maltin
Western Suburbs est 1983

Klabb Ghannejja Maltin Inc is a Maltese folklore association
that was established in 1983 in Victoria Australia.
Located at 4-6 Gooding Street St Albans, Victoria, Australia

The Klabb will be open from 5pm for dinner, drinks and laughs!

Support the Klabb and enjoy each other's company -
we have a great selection of food at very
reasonable prices and the bar is stocked up with everyone's
favourites including kinnie (at reasonable prices).

Everyone is welcome!



Welcome! We are the Hamrun Club, a Maltese community club
Located at 100 Jackson Street, Marsden Park, NSW
We are open every Sunday after 4pm
Find us on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/hamrunclub/>